

THE TIMES

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EVERY WEEKDAY

Brian MacArthur on Mandelson, mystery and Ms Boycott media times: page 44

'Open meetings' to counter the left

Blair seeks tighter grip on his party

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR is planning to carry on his Labour Party revolution with a package of internal changes designed to attract more members and curb the last power bastions of the old Left.

Having scrapped Clause 4 of the party's constitution and downgraded the annual conference, the Prime Minister now intends to shake up the way the party operates at the grassroots.

In a move that will be opposed by traditionalists, he is set to reform or even abolish the General Committee which for decades has been the power base for activists in every constituency party and the home of many MPs called to account before them.

Instead he wants the often interminable monthly meetings in draughty halls, with hard-core members passing resolutions on a multitude of subjects, to become a thing of the past. The main focus of local party affairs would instead become "all-member meetings", concentrating on policies of interest to ordinary people. Mr Blair's Sedgefield constituency has been a pioneer in the field. Others are following.

The General Committee is made up of representatives from the party's branches across the constituency, trade unions with members living in the area, and other affiliated societies. Its role was originally to manage local parties but over the years became the place where the most earnest

members spent their hours in debate.

Such meetings, according to Labour's modernisers, allowed unrepresentative minorities to flourish. For while many people were driven away by boredom, persistent leftwingers were prepared to sit through the long meetings, which the Militant Tendency and other extremist groups used to build their influence in the Seventies.

Now, with Labour's membership beginning to dip from its post-election peak, Mr Blair has told friends that he wants to "break the GC culture". Although no decisions have been taken, he wants to open up local Labour parties so that party meetings become enjoyable occasions. "Some members find our present structures deeply alienating," a senior Labour source said. "It is time to stop these committees behaving as if they were all mini-parliaments. People are not joining our party to be lectured on rules and resolutions."

The process of "voluntary modernisation" is already under way in some areas. Several parties have decided that the general committees should meet less regularly and a handful not at all.

Key decisions such as approval of election candidates are taken by a constituency's executive committee, which is made up of branch representatives and constituency officers, but everyone is invited to the

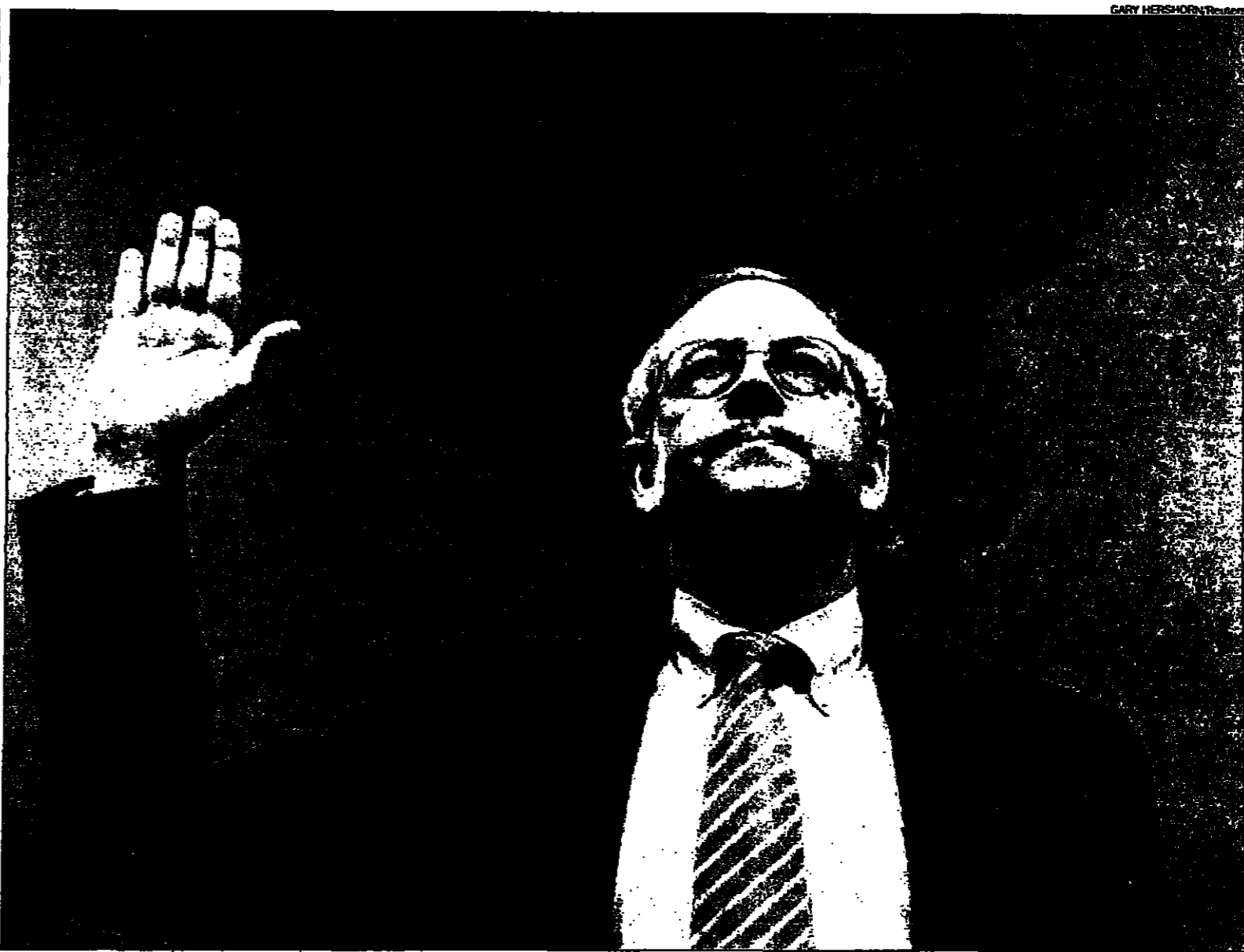
"all members" meetings", which ministers often address. Other decisions are dealt with by smaller bodies, such as local policy forums and election campaign committees.

Mr Blair is considering making such changes general across the party, which would mean amendments to the party constitution at next year's conference. A "healthy party" task force under Ian McCartney, the trade minister and national executive member, is looking at possible changes and Mr Blair is expected to use his report as the basis of the next phase of change and to bring forward proposals early next year.

Ministers are frustrated that their hopes of turning Labour into a mass membership party have not been realised. After rising above 400,000 during the 1997 election year it is now reputed to be about 380,000.

"The country voted for us. Some people joined because they thought it would help to get the Tories out. But now they need good reasons to stay and we must give them the party they deserve," one said.

Under reforms which came into operation this year, the National Policy Forum has become the party's main policy-making body. The annual conference can reject its reports altogether, but not amend them. The days when delegates spent hours "compositing" motions to put to the conference have largely gone.



Kenneth Starr, the "federally funded sex policeman", being sworn in at the start of impeachment proceedings against President Clinton yesterday

Starr's turn to face the inquisitors

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

KENNETH STARR, President Clinton's tormentor for the past four years, became the subject of an inquisition himself yesterday as the third impeachment hearings in American history opened amid bitterness and rancour. The independent prosecutor attacked Mr Clinton as hard as he defended himself, accusing the President of repeated deception and abuse of power.

In return, he was denounced as a "federally paid sex policeman".

Mr Starr said that he welcomed the opportunity to give an account of his investigation for the first time. His team had not enjoyed or relished their task. "My office and I revere the law. I am proud of what we have accomplished. We were assigned a difficult job. We have tried to be both fair and thorough," he said.

His report had never passed judgment on the relationship between Mr Clinton and Moni-

ca Lewinsky, nor suggested that it was a high crime or misdemeanour worthy of impeachment. "The referral is instead about obstruction of justice, lying under oath, tampering with witnesses and abuse of power."

He added: "The evidence suggests that the President repeatedly used the machinery of government and the powers of his office to conceal his relationship with Monica Lewinsky."

But Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee

fore into Mr Starr. John Conyers described Mr Starr's report into Mr Clinton's affair with Ms Lewinsky as "lawdy, salacious and unnecessarily graphic" and said that Mr Starr had crossed the line into obsession.

"The idea of a federally paid sex policeman spending millions of dollars to trap an unfaithful spouse would have

been unthinkable prior to the Starr investigation," he said.

The White House said that Mr Starr's statement was conspicuously short of the sexual details that had upset large sections of the public. "It's a PG-rated version of his X-rated referral. They scrubbed out the sex," one official said.

Sleepy sideshow, page 19

One small step to stars

The first piece of the £13 billion international space station will be lifted into orbit from Kazakhstan today. The Zarya module was built by a Russian company and will be launched by a Russian rocket - but it has been paid for by America. Page 11

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ITN wins fight to kill News at Ten

By Raymond Snoddy and Carol Midgley

THE death knell for News at Ten was finally sounded yesterday, in spite of loud and repeated protests from the Prime Minister, other politicians and most viewers.

The Independent Television Commission voted by seven to three to allow ITN to kill the 30-year-old bulletin with the trademark Big Ben "bong". But its newscaster Trevor McDonald will survive to present the half-hour replacement programme at 6.30pm, as well as an hour-long weekly current affairs programme - at 10pm. There will also be a 20-minute bulletin at 11pm, possibly presented by Dermot Murnaghan.

Announcing the decision, the ITC chairman Sir Robin Biggam said that it was right to give ITV the chance to test a new schedule with more comedy and drama between 9pm and 11pm. 30pm. "In a multichannel age, di-



The following item may upset some people - particularly me



Biggam: "TV schedule must have its chance"

rect intervention by a regulator to dictate the precise scheduling of a programme, even an institution such as News at Ten looks increasingly inappropriate," Sir Robin said.

But his conclusion was at odds with 80 per cent of the people who wrote to the ITC about the issue, with a majority of people interviewed by

MORI, and with politicians of all persuasions. Gerald Kaufman, chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport said last night: "We have passed a new milestone in the dumbing down of Britain. The ITC exists to protect standards but has decided to allow ratings to come first."

John Major was also withering in his criticism. "News at Ten is an institution. Moving it is a grave mistake. I suspect it will lead to a downgrading of the quality of evening television and reduce the ability of the independent companies to report breaking news throughout the evening."

And a spokesman for Mr Biggam said: "He has made it clear that his preference was to keep it at ten o'clock."

ITV had asked for the right to move the main evening news programme as part of its plan to revamp its schedule in the face of increasing competition. The ITC go-ahead means that it will be able to broadcast more adult comedy, hard-hitting documentaries, drama and uninterrupted films between 9pm and 11pm.

The Commission said yesterday it was giving its approval on condition that there will be no reduction in the funding, range or quality of national and international news; no reduction in public service val-

ues and a greater diversity of programme in peak viewing times; and at least 12 half-hour slots for regional programmes on weekdays with another programme at weekends.

The ITC, which has also insisted on news headlines being broadcast as close to 10pm as possible each night, will review the changes in a year and demand action if they are seen to be failing. But the ITC chief executive Peter Rogers conceded that once the decision had been taken "the genie could not be put back in the bottle" and News at Ten would not return.

The ITV chief executive Richard Eyre welcomed the decision and promised an "exciting and far-reaching overhaul of ITV's primetime schedule". He said the ITC conditions appeared reasonable and ITV was confident it could meet them.

Peter Barnard, page 7
Leading article, page 25
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This year's traditional turkey may be the last

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

The traditional farm-fresh turkey, with gently rotting innards still intact, may be seen in butchers' windows for the last time this Christmas.

Jeff Rooker, the Food Safety Minister and *bête noire* of unpasteurised milk drinkers and T-bone steak lovers, believes the birds pose a hygiene threat. He would prefer them all to be disembowelled in licensed slaughterhouses or meat-cutting plants as happens in

the rest of the EU. If his view prevails, butchers would no longer be able to buy turkeys from farmers with the head, feet and giblets still intact - a state known in the trade as long-legged or New York-dressed.

Turkey farmers said yesterday that small producers could be forced out of business because they would not be able to afford the extra labour and equipment to needed to dress the fowl themselves.

Butchers said they would lose control over the amount of time the birds

were hung before being eviscerated, a crucial factor in creating the superior flavour of the traditional turkey.

A strict code of practice requires that the birds must be mainly hand-plucked, be hung for at least seven days, be at least 18 weeks old at slaughter and be fed mostly on cereals with no use of growth-promoting drugs.

About 400,000 such birds are sold each year, and it is estimated that up to half of them are sent to butchers whole. But the vast majority of the 10 million turkeys sold at Christmas are intensive-

ly-reared birds bred to convert food quickly into huge amounts of breast meat. They sell for as little as a third of the price of the traditional variety.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture confirmed that the regulations were under review, but could not say when proposals might be put out for consultation.

He did, however, confirm: "We would like to see all the preparation of poultry done in licensed abattoirs where conditions are carefully controlled and cleanliness is assured."

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Tony's tabloid touch leaves Lords staring at the abyss

Does anyone know the Old French for "What-ever happened to that one, then?"

We ask, because at the Prorogation of Parliament which occurred yesterday in the Lords, a list of the Acts which Parliament has passed in session now closing is read out. But where the devil was the European Elections Act?

After each Act's declaration, a bearded flunkie turns solemnly from the Throne and declares "La Reyne le veult!" which means "The Queen wants it".

Thus, yesterday: "Waste Minimisation Act." "La Reyne le veult!" "Registration of Political Parties Act." "La Reyne le veult!"

One by one, the Bills which had gone forward from both Houses of Parliament were listed as Acts. But one key Bill, promised by Her Majesty herself in that very Chamber in the last Queen's Speech, was missing. Should these mysteriously not enjoy an archaic reportage of their own? In *The Times's Revised Lords Procedure*, it might go like this:

(Reader) "European Elections Act." (Flunkie) "Où est-il?" (All peers) "Tory faux pas!" Instead, the errant Act was notable yesterday only by a silence — and a curiously agitated air among the Lords and Ladies themselves. They just couldn't sit still. Not within living memory had their doings occupied the front pages of all the tabloid newspapers together. Good heavens! They actually mattered.

In a Question before Prorogation, about the dispensing of aspirins by pharmacists, Lord

Stewartby, 63, had begun: "My Lords, as one of those who does take a junior aspirin every morning in hopes of avoiding a heart-attack... (sympathetic nods) as a result of excitement in your lordships' House..."

They were almost rolling in the aisles. One bishop, slumped so deep in prayer that it was possible to mistake

his meditation for slumber, sat bolt upright, electrified.

Even the Queen's speech (read out on Prorogation by the Lord Chancellor) seemed to have woken up. Out goes the dull and dignified language in which draughtsmen used to frame the Queen's Government's account of its own doings in the session being closed: and in comes the jaunty

walkabout in Windsor, shaking hands with the many, not the few...

Her speech to the Lords and Commons (MPs standing crowded at the Bar by the Chamber's entrance) droned on for ages, strolling boastfully through the achievements of the last eighteen months. If the Queen did not quite declare "no return to Tory boom and bust" then we must assume that someone at the Palace had drawn the line at Alastair Campbell's first draft. But Downing Street did appear to have got the Government's "vi-

sion" for the future past the Royal censors.

At last it was over. MPs were dismissed. Madam Speaker and her cohorts — dowdy in the presence of all this finery — bowed and left. MPs following. We could hear the hubbub of a departing crowd of elected politicians, echoing down the corridor like the sound of a farmyard, fading as the beasts lumbered back to home pasture.

The lords, hereditaries and all, were left in silence, all gilt and ermine and scarlet, staring into an abyss.



Heads win fight against 'unfair' results index

MINISTERS bowed to a chorus of criticism from head teachers yesterday and dropped a controversial new measure of teenagers' progress from school league tables to be published in less than a fortnight.

The decision to abandon a five-point grading designed to iron out differences in schools' intake was condemned by the Tories as a "humiliating U-turn". The move came only a week after David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, had insisted that the measure was valid and refused to "suppress" the data.

The "progress index" compared the GCSE results of schools with similar test scores at 14. But Mr Blunkett decided at the weekend that the measure — first outlined by ministers in March — would have been unfair to many successful schools.

A number of schools where all the GCSE candidates achieved at least five good passes were relegated to the bottom two grades because outstanding test scores two years earlier had left little room for improvement. Government sources said Mr Blunkett felt the index was not sufficiently reliable and might discredit attempts to assess the value added by schools.

The change of heart deligit-

ment only to be graded D. Stuart Priestly, the head teacher, said: "We had to keep telling the children that they were still fantastic and had worked incredibly hard. If they do introduce a progress measure, it will have to be far more refined than this one."

David Willetts, the Shadow Education Secretary, said: "The Government claimed this measure was going to identify schools which are coasting and denying their pupils the success they should be getting. What has happened to that claim now?"

The Government has promised to crack down on schools which are not doing as well as they should, given the abilities of their intake. Low grades in the index would have highlighted many such schools, but they will now not be identified in the tables. Instead, the full tables available to parents will show only schools in the top two categories.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, one of those pressing for the index to be abandoned, said: "Although we would have preferred total withdrawal of the measure, the fact that the Government has made such a significant change is an admission that the proposals were flawed."

Ministers drop value-added ranking from school league tables, writes John O'Leary

ed head teachers' leaders, who had pressed for the index to be dropped after hundreds of their members wrote to Mr Blunkett, complaining about their grades.

Inverca Grammar School, in Maidstone, Kent, for example, registered its best GCSE results but was to be placed in the penultimate grade. Every candidate had passed five GCSEs at grade C or above and almost half of the entries were marked as A or A*.

Susan Court, Inverca's head teacher, said: "By every sensible measure, our results were outstanding. But because the girls' test results were also good and we deliberately put them in for only nine subjects, rather than 11 or 12, this was not going to be good enough."

Brierton Comprehensive School in Hartlepool, also achieved its best results, registering a 58 per cent improve-



Ceaseless efforts to secure cross-party unity and a strong female input into the Good Friday agreement have earned a mother of two the coveted UK Woman of Europe Award.

Bronagh Hinds, 48, who is based in Belfast, is being rewarded for her outstanding voluntary contributions to-

UN calls for changes to RUC

BY MARTIN FLETCHER CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A UNITED Nations human rights committee called yesterday for the "reconstruction" of

the Royal Ulster Constabulary, the banning of plastic bullets, and the rapid closure of Castlebar and other RUC interrogation centres.

The report, by the UN Committee Against Torture, comes just as the future of the RUC has become one of Northern Ireland's most contentious political issues. Chris Patten's commission on policing has embarked on a major province-wide consultation exercise, and is to publish its conclusions by next summer.

Sinn Féin seized on the report. Gerry Adams said it "condemned" the RUC like scores of others before it, and was "further evidence of the logic of Sinn Féin's demand that the RUC be disbanded."

wards helping the return of long-term peace in Northern Ireland and European integration.

Ms Hinds, founder of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition, said: "I am very pleased it has come to someone in Northern Ireland, particularly this year when women were active in negotiations in the

peace process. This is not just for me but for all the women."

"We have had a very high degree of community organisation and activism. Women may not have been involved in the political field in the past but they have been on the streets and in local organisations taking a leadership role there."

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Regions get new cash injection from EU

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

CORNWALL, West Wales and South Yorkshire are on track to receive hundreds of millions of pounds in new aid from the European Union, according to figures drawn up by the European Commission.

The regions are expected to qualify for the first time in the category of poorest areas of Europe, along with Merseyside, which already enjoys the so-called "Objective One" status. However, the new wealth statistics, to be published next week, confirm that Northern Ireland and Scotland's Highlands and Islands will drop out of the most favoured category unless the EU agrees to the Government's pleading for special arrangements.

Britain, which is the EU's fourth poorest state in terms of wealth per capita, has been fighting to soften planned cuts in the £1.3 billion a year it receives from the EU's regional funds.

Two thirds of this goes to the Objective One regions for financing infrastructure and building new industry. The cuts are part of a big reform in regional aid, which was launched in 1988 to raise living standards in the poorer areas of Europe, in preparation for the membership of the former communist countries in the next decade.

Save MPs from trial by TV, says watchdog

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT WHITEHALL EDITOR

MPs accused of breaking parliamentary rules should be spared trial by television, Lord Neill of Bladen, QC, the public standards watchdog, said yesterday.

He said the televised grilling of Neil Hamilton, the former Tory MP at the centre of "cash for questions" allegations, had detracted from natural justice.

Lord Neill suggested that in any future complex case, a formal body should be set up "to ensure that justice would not only be done but be manifestly seen to be done."

His remarks appear to set his Committee on Standards in Public Life on a collision course with MPs on the Standards and Privileges Committee. Lord Neill is shortly to launch a review of the success of the anti-sleaze measures introduced by MPs in the wake of the cash for questions allegations. But his views, included in a Commons report yesterday, make clear that he is concerned about the way that the MPs handled the Hamilton case.

He said that Mr Hamilton should have been allowed to challenge evidence investigated by Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Standards Commissioner, and to cross-examine witnesses.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

It's 'no' to EU tax harmony

GORDON BROWN has warned Germany that Britain would not accept any moves towards the harmonisation of taxes across the European Union. The Chancellor used his first meeting with his German counterpart, Oskar Lafontaine, to stress the differences between the two over the issue. His message is designed to calm fears that a manifesto signed by the EU's social democratic governments would provide a springboard for a push for tax harmonisation.

But the two did announce an Anglo-German working group to strive for economic reform and job creation.

Doctors warned

Doctors who place patients at risk will be "named and shamed", Alan Milburn, the Health Minister, told the Royal College of Physicians. Mr Milburn said that bad doctors should be sacked from the health service.

Savings fallen

The amount of money being saved by families and individuals has dropped by nearly a third since Labour came to power, figures published by the Tories revealed, and it could fall by a further 10 per cent before the next election.

Rapist's suicide

John Steed, the M4 rapist, hanged himself in Full Sutton jail after hearing he would never be released, an inquest jury at Hull was told yesterday. Steed, 34, was serving life for killing a woman and raping three others. Verdict: suicide.

Mandelson trip

Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, yesterday cancelled a three-day trade promotion visit to Brazil "due to pressure of parliamentary business". He had been due to head a delegation of exporters. Media, page 43

Fat la suit

The sound of silenced by

Judges agree on dancers

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Fat lady's libel suit falls flat

Robin Young on the case of a hoary old joke brought before High Court

THE fat lady was denied her chance to sing in the High Court yesterday when the majestically proportioned soprano *Jessye Norman* lost her bid to sue for libel over a quip about her size. She claimed words used about her were "vulgar and undignified".

Classic CD magazine had related a story that, when she became trapped in swing doors on the way to a concert and was advised to turn sideways to release herself, she had replied: "Honey, I ain't got no sideways."

Miss Norman complained that the attribution to her of a remark she never made held her up to ridicule, mockery and contempt because it conformed to a "degrading racist stereotype of a person of African-American heritage".

Lord Justice Peter Gibson, in a ruling in the Court of Appeal yesterday, said that the words of which the diva complained could never convey the defamatory meanings that she was suggesting.

He commented ruefully: "I could have wished Miss Norman had told the hoary old joke contained in the anecdote — the subject of this libel action — as it would have shown that, in addition to possessing the remarkable vocal and dramatic talents which have made her world-famous as a distinguished opera singer,

she had an engaging sense of humour. Unhappily, she has taken offence at the false attribution to her of the six words."

The judge was right about the hoariness of the joke. If *Times* readers care to flick through a 1900 volume of *Punch* they will be able to find the cartoon by L. Raven Hill which may be the joke in its original form. Raven Hill depicted a stout lady endeavouring to clamber into a horse-drawn omnibus. The caption

Miss Norman is reported to have greeted her with the words: "Hi, skinny."

Miss Norman, 53, who lives in New York, had already tried unsuccessfully to sue *Classic CD* in the United States over their article, which was published in 1994. Her claim in this country was struck out under High Court rules that the words complained of did not bear the meanings she attributed to them.

Lord Justice Hirst, in his ruling, said the three-page article in which the words complained of appeared was "extremely complimentary" on the whole, though it did say that it was "hard to envisage the grand, statuesque 49-year-old [Miss Norman] as the libidinous adolescent [Salome] stripping off the seven veils."

Miss Norman claimed that the article had caused serious injury to her personal and professional reputation and to her feelings. Her counsel, John Rampton, QC, told the appeal judges that the words could be

defamatory if they exposed the plaintiff to ridicule.

Lord Justice Hirst had concluded that the "reasonable reader", considering the words in the context of the article as a whole, could not interpret them in the sense Miss Norman claimed, "which is in any event so amodine a meaning as to be barely defamatory". He said: "The article as a whole portrays the plaintiff as a person of high standing and impeccable dignity, and with a sense of artistic discrimination and personal propriety which is the very reverse of vulgar."

Lord Justice Peter Gibson added that the article only gave the impression of poking "gentle fun" at Miss Norman's size, and pointed out that in the very next sentence it said: "She has lost a lot of weight since then."

That impression, the judge said, was entirely compatible with "the self-deprecating humour" Miss Norman displayed when she was quoted as commenting on the suitability of her playing the part of a heroine dying of consumption. Then she was reported to have said: "I simply don't look the part. They have to say I was run over by a car or something."

Miss Norman's appeal against the ruling that the claim should be struck out was dismissed.

'The article portrays her with a sense of artistic discrimination which is the very reverse of vulgar'



The American soprano Jessye Norman, who, the magazine article admitted, has lost weight in recent years

The sound of music silenced by surgery

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN WASHINGTON

JULIE Andrews, the eternally sunny icon of musical theatre, may never sing in public again because she has failed to recover from an operation last year to remove growths from her vocal chords, her husband has disclosed.

Hers was the voice that rang out over the Austrian Tyrol in *The Sound of Music* and sustained a glittering career in the West End, on Broadway and in film. But now, "if you heard it, you'd weep", her husband, Blake Edwards, said. "I don't think she'll sing again. It's an absolute tragedy."

Andrews, 63, underwent the surgery to remove benign nodules in June last year during a gruelling Broadway run of *Victor/Victoria*, as the principal character in which she effectively played both the male and female leads. The run had been frequently interrupted by the sore throats and laryngitis that the operation was intended to cure.

Seventeen months on, the prognosis is gloomy. "The doctor who did the surgery said they don't know when it might heal," Andrews's spokesman, Gene Schwam, said yesterday.



Andrews did not know her voice was in danger

"There's a 50-50 chance that it won't."

Mr Schwam said that the star of *Mary Poppins* and the original stage version of *My Fair Lady* was "very saddened" and might never have had the operation had she known she could lose her voice. "Julie has always considered herself a singer who acts, rather than an actor who sings," he said.

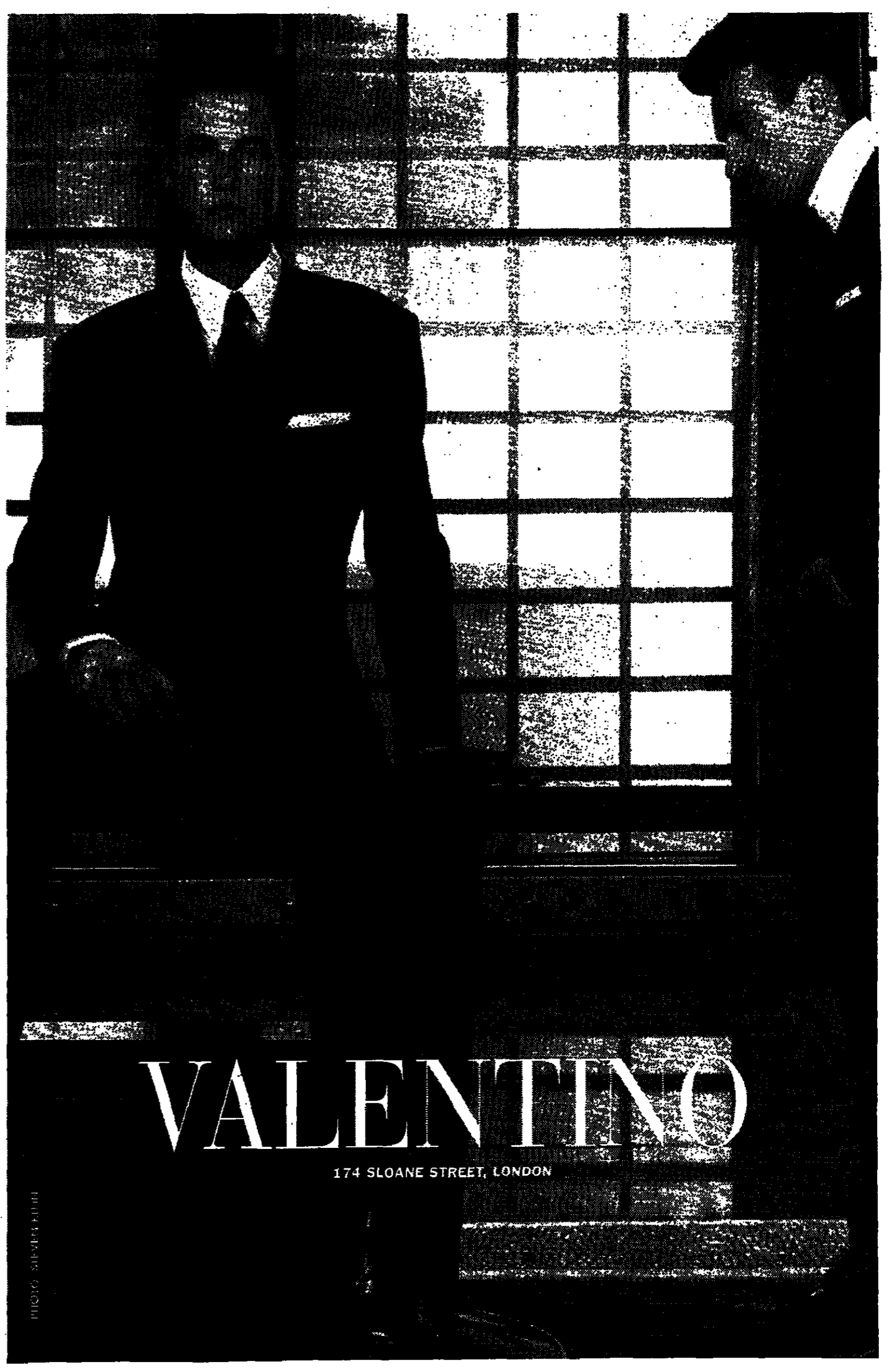
Andrews had reportedly

been warned that scar tissue might form on her vocal chords, but chose surgery instead of her other option of six months' rest.

After 722 back-to-back performances of *Victor/Victoria*, which Edwards wrote for her 25 years ago, she refused to let her understudy take over. Instead, Liza Minnelli, a friend and the star of the film version of *Cabaret*, stood in during the operation only to forget her lines, prompting a "sick-out" by her male co-star and ridicule in the press. Since then, Andrews has been resting mainly at her home in Gstaad, Switzerland.

A planned tour of *Victor/Victoria* has had to be cancelled. In the meantime its star has returned to work once, to record 700 spoken lines as the parrot Polynesia in a West End musical on the adventures of Dr Doolittle.

Brought up in Walton-on-Thames, Andrews was singing in *My Fair Lady* on Broadway by the time she was 19. She was deeply upset to lose the lead in the musical's film version to Audrey Hepburn, but won an Oscar nomination for *The Sound of Music*, the most successful filmed musical yet made.



Ex-PC who claimed for Viagra gets £350,000

A FORMER Irish policeman who sought compensation to buy the anti-impotence drug Viagra because he had been forced to retire after a beating was yesterday awarded £350,000 in damages.

The Dublin High Court was told that an unspecified section of the award against the Irish state to Philip Purcell, 45, related to the Viagra aspect of the case.

Mr Purcell said that he had suffered from erectile dysfunction as a result of post-traumatic stress caused by an attack on him by fans after a football match in Dublin four years ago. Ordered to retire last year, he had undergone medical treatment for his loss of libido, but did not believe he had been cured. He found that Viagra tablets, which cost £18 per dose, had proved less successful. Mr Purcell, who was a Dublin-based member of the Irish police force's special detective unit, told the court that he intended to use the tablets in the future and he considered he might need two or three tablets a week.

Mr Justice Declan Budd stressed that sexual problems were only one aspect of Mr Purcell's difficulties. He allowed £26,730 of the total damages for future medical treatment.

Judges cannot agree over lap dancers' offers

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham, and another senior judge cannot agree over exactly how they should regard the extra services offered by lap dancers after their public performances.

At issue is whether after-dance offers by the girls of sex for money should render club managers guilty of failing to provide good order.

Magistrates at Horseferry Road court in London have already decided it does not. But despite hearing intimate details of an undercover police mission to several lap-dancing clubs, Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, and Mr Justice Collins failed to agree whether the magistrates were right or wrong.

The two judges said in the High Court that one of them took the view that the sex offers by the girls were sufficient to get the club bosses into legal hot water, the other took the contrary view.

As a result, the question of what lap dancers can offer without making their employers liable to prosecution for failing to keep order is now to be pondered again in the High Court — this time by three judges. This is to ensure that even if there is a disagreement, at least a majority decision can be reached.

The three London West End clubs at the centre of the row are the Gaslight Club in York Street, Chaplins in Swallow Street, and the Crazy Horse in Regent Street.

Lord Bingham and Mr Justice Collins were told what happened when plain clothes police officers visited the premises on covert missions.

They heard that dancers wearing bikini tops and G-strings, went into suggestive dance routines that included erotic contact with the officers and were then told that after dancing, the dancers made offers of sex.

After hearing of the routines the judges were satisfied that they amounted to "performances wholly or mainly comprised for sexual stimulation" and breached licensing rules governing places of public entertainment.

But they could not agree with each other on the magistrates' ruling that as the dancers were not overheard making the offers, they did not render the club owners guilty of failing to maintain good order.

A date for a further inquiry into the matter is to be fixed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

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Doctors warned

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Designer drug threatens lives of abusers

POLICE issued a national warning to drug users yesterday to beware dealers selling two highly dangerous Ecstasy substitutes that can kill or leave them injured.

One of the drugs, "Flatliners", which is not yet banned under drug-dealing legislation, has already been linked to the deaths of two young people this year. The hallucinogenic drug is suspected of causing severe seizures.

Private Stephen Evans, 21, died in Plymouth in August after taking the drug among a cocktail of others.

The other victim was Rene Saunders, 22, a psychology student who died in Shepton Mallet, Somerset, in July and had not taken any other drugs. Toxicologists at Birmingham City Hospital are now using the case to discover the true extent of the drug's potency.

The other drug at the centre of yesterday's warning is known as DOB or Golden Eagle on the streets and is reputed to be 33 times stronger than normal doses of Ecstasy.

According to doctors, DOB overdoses can cause psychiatric problems, panic, violent behaviour and even death. They may also induce spasms in the blood vessels of the limbs, leading to injury. Both the drugs sell on the streets and in clubs for about £5 a tablet.

The warning was issued by the National Criminal Intelligence Service. The appearance of Flatliners, chemically identified as 4-MTA or 4-methylthioamphetamine, is now also being monitored across Europe under an international drugwatch scheme. The drug has also been found in The Netherlands.

It is relatively easy to make and was developed five years ago at Purdue University in Indiana in the United States as a possible replacement for Prozac or as an appetite suppressant. It was never tested on humans, but underground chem-

Police issue a nationwide warning over a new breed of narcotics, writes Stewart Tendler

ists spotted references to it in two scientific papers and then made it.

Yesterday Professor David Nicholls, who developed the drug, said it was only intended to be used in doses of two or three milligrams and not the tablets of 100 milligrams or more which he believed have turned up on the black market.

Details of DOB can be found on the Internet and another drug similar to Flatliners is also mentioned there by underground chemists.

Issuing the warning yesterday, Les Fiander, of the NCIS drugs unit, said: "The market has become greedy both for new drugs and the vast sums of money that can be made from these drugs. They can make a lot of money out of very little. You only need three milligrams of DOB against about 80 milligrams per dose of Ecstasy." He said that the

drugs were sold as another form of Ecstasy to young users. So far police have made about 20 seizures of Flatliners, which is controlled under the Medicines Act, but has yet to be listed under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

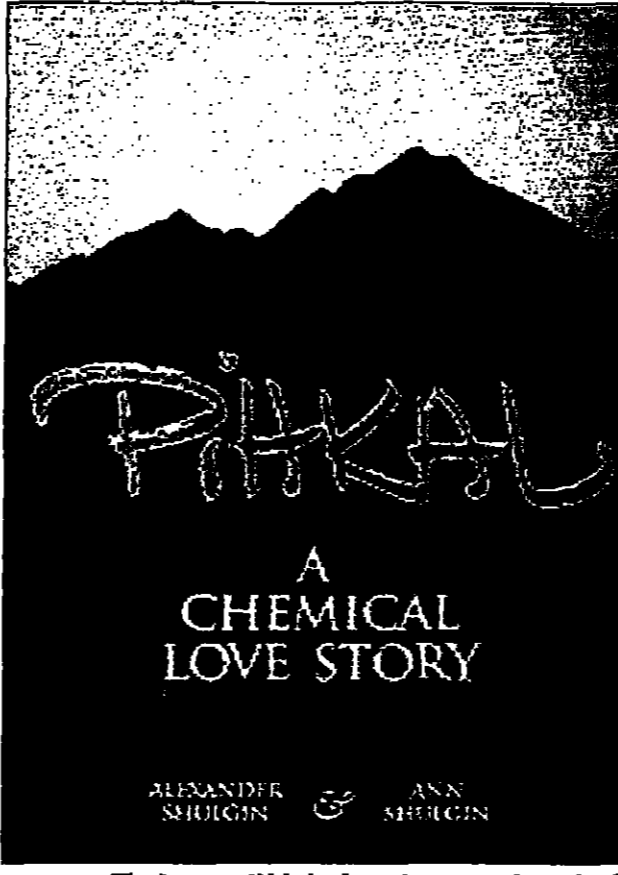
DOB or 4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyamphetamine dates from the 1960s and has sometimes been sold as LSD. Mr Fiander said police have made ten seizures in recent years but the British market may face a new flood of drugs.

Police in France have seized 400,000 doses recently that may have been destined for this country.

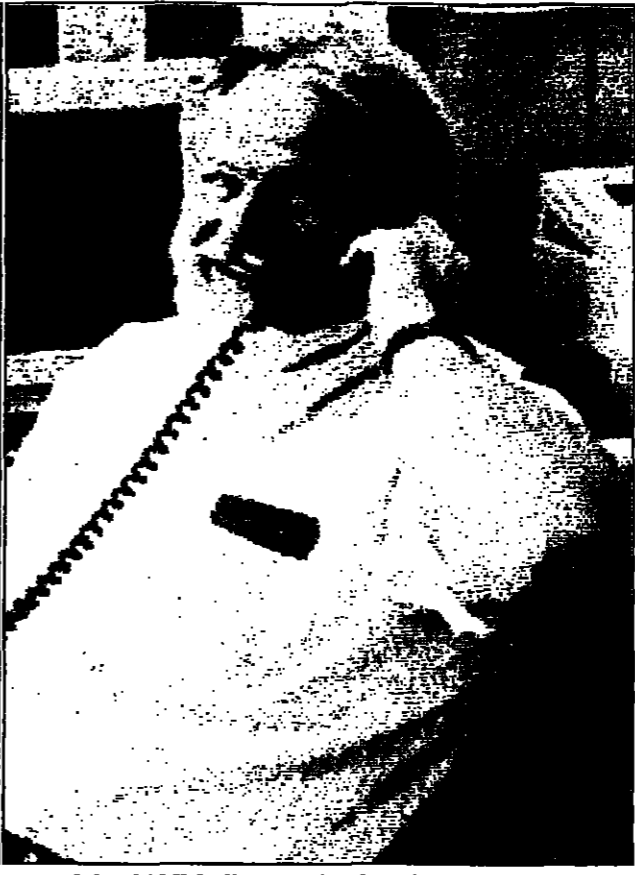
Mr Fiander said police now believe that criminals once involved in cocaine smuggling or armed robbery are moving into drug production either in Britain or in Holland.

Drug workers said yesterday they have seen little evidence of Flatliners yet although the name has been used in the past by dealers to refer to other drugs. Details of the manufacture and effects of taking DOB can be found on the Internet in "Pihkal, A Chemical Lovestory" which was co-authored by Alexander Shulgin, an American chemist celebrated in the drugs world.

The entry includes detailed descriptions of taking the drug, tests on mice and there is also a health warning.



The Internet Website featuring news about the drugs and David Nicholls, who developed Flatliners



Jail for air force man who spied on women

By Shirley English

AN RAF photographer who secretly filmed female colleagues in their underwear was jailed for six months and dismissed the service yesterday.

Lee Carter, 29, a senior aircraftman who was also base photographer at RAF Lossiemouth, recorded seven women undressing in the changing room of his studio over 14 months.

Yesterday, after a three-day court martial, he was found guilty of disgraceful conduct of an indecent nature.

Sentencing him, Judge Advocate Peter Gribble, said: "You gained the trust of a number of females and then you abused them. You knew full well that none of them would have consented to the videos. But you repeatedly set up a camera and filmed them, using the film later for your own sexual gratification."

Carter was the official photographer at the base in Moray and invited female colleagues and wives of servicemen to pose for portraits. He secretly installed a video camera in the changing room to record them getting changed. His crime came to light when colleagues discovered the video tapes in his locker.

Corporal Scott Fraser, of the RAF police, said after the hearing: "The women are very angry and bitter. They were disgusted by what happened."

Andrew McCartan, for the defence, said that Carter had expressed remorse for the offences, which he put down to weakness.

Carter was jailed for six months, to be served in a civilian prison. His defence agent said that he would appeal.

The evils of tampering with potions

By Dr Thomas Stuttford

REPUTABLE pharmacologists improve a basic medication so that over the years minor modifications refine it and extend its range.

Just as latter-day penicillins are much more effective than the original preparation, so have pharmacologists adjusted the formula of the basic drugs misused for recreation so as to change their actions. In doing so they may have, wittingly or unwittingly, given drug dealers the opportunity

to increase their market by offering dangerous drugs with additional effects.

The pharmacologists have been busy with the amphetamines and have thereby provided drug dealers with an enhanced income, but at the cost of safety. Simple amphetamines have their dangers: by attaching to the amphetamine molecule another chemical structure, they have created Ec-

stasy, a more complex preparation. Ecstasy is short-acting, produces euphoria, a sense of emotional closeness and intimacy. It puts up the blood pressure and the heart rate. Pharmacologists have now added several molecular groups and attached them to the original amphetamine.

The new "designer drugs" have the action of amphetamines and Ecstasy, plus the

mind-bending effects of LSD. Overall, DOB and 4-MTA are much more like LSD than amphetamines or Ecstasy in their actions. They are hallucinatory and long-acting: the trip may last for 24 hours or more, the blood pressure is increased, there is peripheral vaso-spasm — so that the user may also suffer gangrene.

Professor David Nichols, of Purdue University, Indiana, said: "Normally the user has to wait for the drug to wear off. If they become very anxious, one of the benzodiazepines will reduce the stress. Gangrene has been reported from the misuse of DOB."

The hallucinatory LSD effect may be particularly dangerous for those people who have a susceptibility, whether from hereditary or environmental causes, to the schizophrenic group of illnesses. DOB and its related compounds may, like LSD, precipitate an acute psychotic breakdown which can extend into schizophrenia.

Dedicated clubber mixed his poisons

By Simon de Bruxelles

A SOLDIER in the Devon and Dorset regiment was one of the first victims of Flatliners, a drug so new that it has yet to be banned by the Home Office.

Private Steven Evans, 21, was an inveterate clubber who regularly binged on a cocktail of different drugs. An inquest in Plymouth was told last week that Evans had been clubbing in Torquay the night before his death last

August. He and a group of friends had each taken several pills, including the Flatliners, before their night of partying. During the evening Evans topped up the drugs that he had already taken by snorting cocaine.

His girlfriend, Keri Gunningham, told the inquest that he was "loved up" at the nightclub. But as night moved into early morning she said he had become "a little bit unstable on his feet". The group had returned to Plymouth

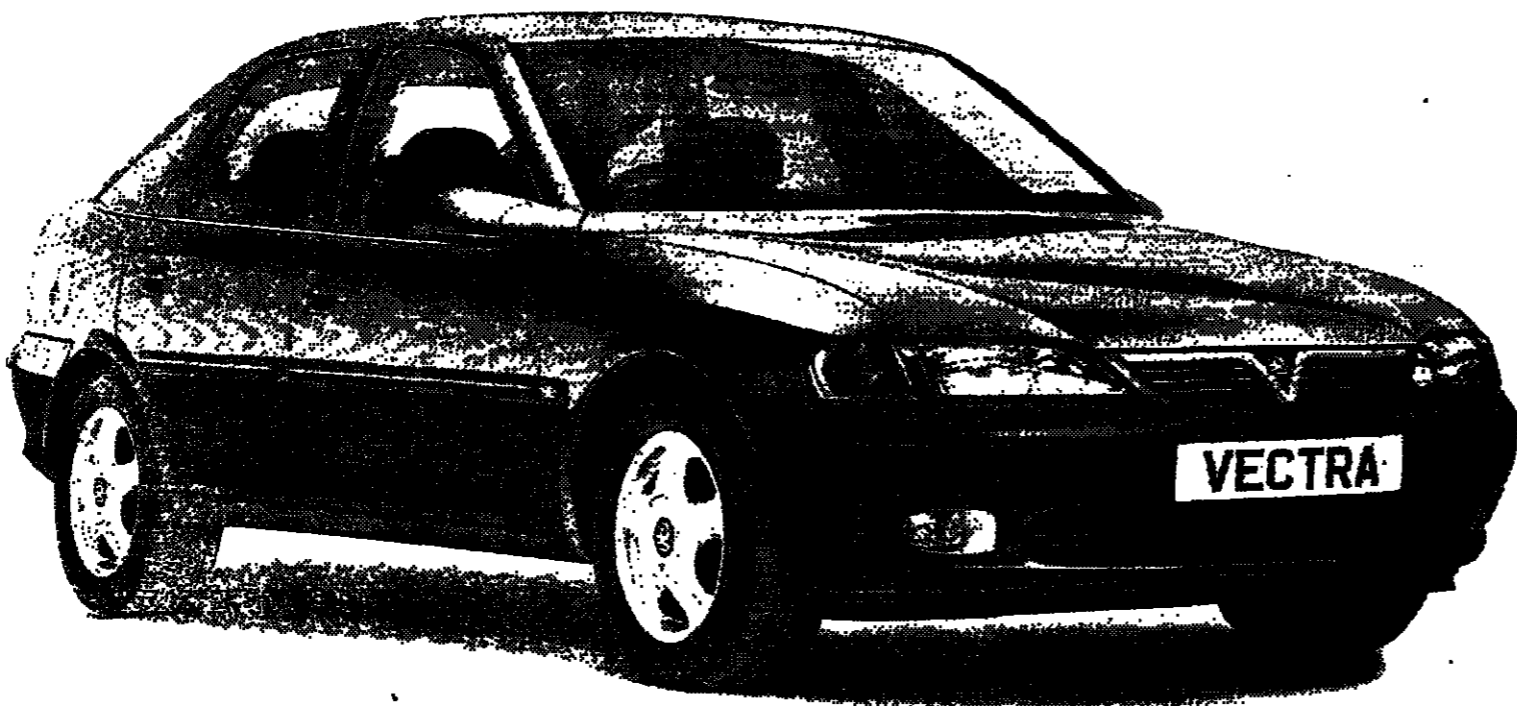
and carried on taking drugs throughout the afternoon and next day.

Miss Gunningham was in tears as she described how her boyfriend's behaviour became increasingly erratic as the drugs took effect. He ran himself a bath but was so unsteady he could not get into it. He then fell on the bed, where his girlfriend tried to cover him with a quilt while his arms and legs flailed around. His bottom lip turned purple and she and his best friend

called an ambulance. He died on the way to hospital.

The Coroner, Nigel Meadows, said that tests on Evans' body had found traces of alcohol, opiates, cocaine, methadone, cannabis, two types of ecstasy and the new drug 4-Methylthioamphetamine or 4-MTA. He recorded a verdict of death by non-dependent abusive drugs and said: "Anyone who takes drugs like this is simply playing Russian roulette with their lives."

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And finally: the end of a golden age of TV news

Peter Barnard on the ghosts of News at Ten past

BONG! Millions hurt by runaway news juggernaut. **Bong!** Ghost of Reginald Bosanquet stalks ITN studios. **Bong!** Prime Minister snubbed by television chiefs. **Bong!** Hollywood moguls celebrate sale of more old films to British television.

News at Ten finally made *News at Ten* last night with the announcement of its own death. The Independent Television Commission's agreement to let the programme die means that the unspeakable has become the inevitable in short order.

As recently as October 1995, the ITC threatened to fine the ITV companies, joint owners of *Independent Television News*, when they wanted to move *News at Ten* back by 15 minutes one night to show an extended episode of *Cracker*. Now the main ITV news bulletin is to be brought forward, permanently, by three hours and 30 minutes.

At the time of the *Cracker* row, over which ITV backed down, the companies insisted that the plan was a one-off, and that there was no hidden agenda to shift *News at Ten* in the longer term. That imprecise timespan appears to have expired yesterday.

The switch to a 6.30pm

main bulletin reflects changing times in television. Tony Blair's opposition to the move was a strangely dated response from a modernist. Television news is a different animal now to the one that stalked the (altogether less dangerous) ratings jungle when *News at Ten* was born.

ITV, faced with a more populist BBC and the threat of satellite television, needs peak viewing time for uninterrupted drama and films. Fictional drama builds audiences, but real-life drama rarely does.

However television news develops in future, it is unlikely to generate anything as radical as that which *News at Ten* brought to the medium 31 years ago. The programme was the principal showcase for the talents of ITN, which was launched from offices in Kingsway, London, in 1955 with an editorial staff of 19 led by the brilliant Aidan Crawley, a wartime bomber pilot and former MP.

News at Ten brought to Britain the notion of the news presenter as a personality. A succession of highly paid presenters, including Alastair Burnet, Bosanquet, Sandy Gall and the present frontman, Trevor McDonald, became public figures. Bosanquet,

who seemed to have been poured into his suit, was irrevocable, his arching eyebrows providing their own commentary on the news. Burnet delivered the news in clipped, accentless English; Gall's all-weather face implied that he had walked all the way from Afghanistan to read the news (which was sometimes close to the truth); McDonald was the first black news presenter on ITV and, in the opinion of many, the best of the lot.

From the start, *News at Ten* had a breezy style that was in marked contrast to the BBC's po-faced approach. Sir Robin Day, one of ITN's early successes, said that ITN blew away taboos and knocked the BBC for six in the process.

And finally... the end of *News at Ten* means the end of one of television's great set-piece occasions. No more will Michael Brunson, ITN's political editor, rush from the Commons to broadcast, live, the outcome of a crucial 10pm division. That produced real excitement, most recently when European legislation was steamrollered through John Major's wafer-thin majority.

Labour's 179-seat majority has squeezed the drama out of such occasions. ITV has chosen its moment.



News as it happened: Alastair Burnet, left, effected a clipped delivery, while Reginald Bosanquet was irreverent. Below: the presenters Alistair Stewart, left, Peter Sissons, Andrew Gardner and the "all-weather" Sandy Gall



Panel of ten that made the decision

By Carol Midgley
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE decision to let ITV axe *News at Ten* was made by a ten-strong panel, whose members included a Millennium Commission and a former Danish television executive.

The panel, which also included a former Director-General of the BBC, considered the issue for many months but the decision was not unanimous. Three members, as yet unidentified, voted for the 31-year-old programme to stay at 10pm.

The panel members, all members of the Independent Television Commission, were: Sir Robin Biggam, the chairman. Also chairman of Fairly Group and a non-executive director of British Aerospace, British Energy and Redland, Earl of Dalkeith, deputy chairman. Member of Millennium Commission. Previously on boards of Border Television, West Sound Radio and Mid-Anglia Radio.

Michael Shea, former press secretary to the Queen. Member of ITC for Scotland. Alastair Balls, former chief executive of Tyne and Wear Development Corporation. Vice-chairman of Council of University of Newcastle upon Tyne. John Beayon, member of British Library Advisory Council. Former principal of King's College London and senior Vice-Chancellor of University of Surrey.

Sir Michael Checkland, former Director-General of BBC. Non-executive director of Nynex Cablecommunications. Governor of Birkbeck College and Brighton University.

Jude Goffe, venture capital adviser, interests in telecommunications, property and textiles. Winston Roddick, QC, a Recorder since 1987.

Maria Moloney, member of ITC for Northern Ireland, and member of Province's Industrial Development Board.

John Ranelagh, European media consultant, writer and current affairs producer. Former secretary to the board of Channel 4 and former director of programmes for TV2 Denmark.

Films and comedy take its place

NEWS at Ten will find itself usurped by a mixture of adult comedy, documentaries and big-screen films that is designed to persuade advertisers to invest in a reinvented ITV.

David Liddiment, ITV's Director of Programmes, and Richard Eyre, its chief executive, have drawn up a "fantasy" schedule, which, they say, will enable ITV to deliver diversity to a modern audience and compete

with its rivals on a "level playing field".

Despite the popular theory, the slot will not be filled mostly with films. Although ITV disliked having to cut its feature films in half to broadcast *News at Ten* in the past, it is expected that only about ten big-screen films a year will be shown

across it. There are, however, plans to put two factual programmes in the slot — a series called *Real Life* overseen by the former *Modern Times* editor Stephen Lambert and a new programme based on the American *60 Minutes*, which will be presented by Trevor McDonald and Martin Bashir, the former

BBC journalist who interviewed the Princess of Wales for *Panorama*.

These will probably be screened on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Mondays will probably be reserved for factual entertainment. Tuesdays for comedy and Fridays often for a big movie.

Leading article, page 25
Media, page 43

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10pm: a comedy drama, such as *Cold Feet*.
11pm: news.

WEDNESDAY, 8pm: a drama, for instance *Horablower*.
10pm: documentary.
11pm: news.
THURSDAY, 9pm: a drama, such as *McCallum*.
10pm: a 60 Minutes-style news magazine programme, to be presented by Trevor McDonald.
11pm: news.
FRIDAY, 9pm: a feature film, such as *Goldeneye*.
11pm: news.

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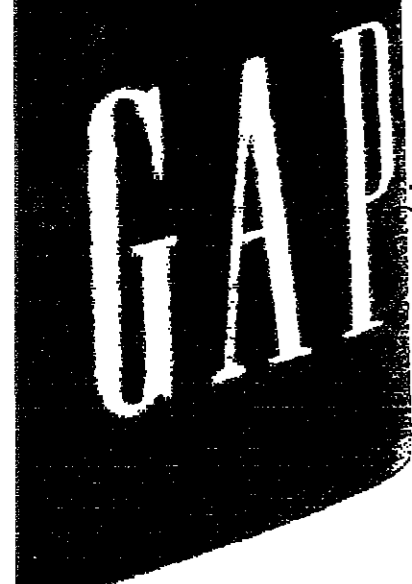
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Tax haven isles urged to fight financial crime

Home Office wants Man and Jersey to tackle tax evasion and fraud, reports Richard Ford

SPECIALIST units including police, customs officers and tax inspectors should be set up on the Channel Islands and Isle of Man to tackle financial crime, says a Home Office report published yesterday.

The islands were also urged to increase the manpower devoted to detecting and investigating tax evasion, financial fraud and money laundering as part of measures intended to strengthen financial regulation on the islands, where institutions hold assets of up to £350 billion.

The report found many in the financial services industry wanted a national fraud and financial crime squad to tackle money-laundering and other criminal activities in the business world. Lord Williams of Mostyn, a Home Office minister, is to chair meetings starting in January to develop an action plan to implement the proposals. It is hoped that most will be in place by 2000. The 175-page report outlines measures to curb abuses and is aimed at providing greater protection for investors.

Andrew Edwards, a retired Treasury official who carried out a ten-month investigation into financial regulation in the Channel Islands and Isle of Man, said a number of concerns had been expressed. They included a perceived ab-

sence of redress for customers in dispute with institutions on the islands, the continuation of business of people with questionable track records, fears that too little was known about many firms and fears that activities were depriving other countries of tax revenues.

Although he said existing rules "mostly work well" and he believed most businesses on the islands were perfectly legal, Mr Edwards said: "The battle against financial crime, including tax evasion and money-laundering, is not being convincingly won."

His report called for the establishment of a financial services ombudsman to deal with customer disputes and a special financial crime-stoppers telephone line for the public.

The report recommended strengthening existing regulations for the 50,000 companies registered on the islands. All

companies run in the islands, but incorporated elsewhere, should be registered, but the report stops short of recommending that limited companies should file audited accounts.

Mr Edwards called for companies that register in the islands to disclose the beneficial ownership in confidence to the authorities. The report proposes measures to tackle the so-called "Sark Lark", where a population of 575 held more than 15,000 directorships. It called for the licensing and registration of directors and any holding directorships in five trading companies or 30 asset-holding firms would be expected to consult a financial supervision commission.

Mr Edwards recommended that island politicians should not sit on bodies regulating the financial services industry. In Jersey the priority was for the authorities to get to the position where they co-operated fully with other countries in pursuit of financial crime and money-laundering, in Guernsey to deal with nominee directors, as occurs in Sark, and on the Isle of Man to increase regulation.

Representatives of the islands broadly welcomed the report but made clear that not all recommendations would be implemented.

Winds of change, page 33



One of the team of abseilers at work on the giant image on Wednesday, 24 hours before the fatal accident

Tragedy overshadows art debut

A WORKMAN died yesterday after falling from a 14-storey hospital car park as he helped to secure a giant art exhibit (Paul Wilkinson writes).

The man was working on a photographic blow-up of an image of a woman and young boy with their hands raised in greeting, which extends the full height of the 170ft car park at Leeds General Infirmary.

The picture had been formally unveiled the previous day as part of Photo 98, a year-long celebration of the medium across the region.

The man, whose identity was not being

disclosed until relatives who live outside the area had been informed, was working about 30ft above the ground.

It was not clear whether he had been working on scaffolding or using a abseiling equipment. He fell on to a concrete roadway and is understood to have suffered multiple injuries. Hospital staff were on the scene almost instantly and took him to the casualty unit. He died five hours later.

Andrew Bannister, a spokesman for the infirmary, said last night: "We are not sure what he was doing at the time he fell. We know the banner had already

been put up so we think the man was securing it to the car park.

"He worked for an outside contractor that was installing the photographic image above the car park entrance as part of an arts project funded by a charitable organisation."

"Details of the incident are being investigated by the police and the Health and Safety Executive. We at the hospital are all shocked by this incident and our thoughts are with the man's family."

A spokesman at the headquarters of Photo 98, in Huddersfield, declined to comment.

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Flash flood is blamed for honeymoon deaths

By PAUL WILKINSON

A HONEYMOON couple were swept to their deaths by a flash flood which raised the level of a river by 5ft in seconds, an inquest was told yesterday.

Lynn and Barry Collett died last August on the first full day of their stay in a holiday cottage at the village of Appletree-wood beside the River Wharfe in the Yorkshire Dales.

The inquest in Skipton, North Yorkshire, heard evidence that overnight rain at the source of the river high in the Dales had produced a sudden surge of water. A hydrology expert from the Environment Agency said that gauges down river recorded a jump in water flow from four cubic metres per second to 50.

The body of Mrs Collett, 25, a student nurse from Long Sutton, Hampshire, was found in the river six days later, not far from Bolton Abbey, where they were last seen alive. Her husband, a 29-year-old computer operator from Camberley, Surrey, was found two months later, 12 miles downstream. Both had drowned.

Jeremy Cave, the Craven Coroner, recorded an open verdict on the couple because no one had witnessed them go into the river. However there was no suggestion of foul play or suicide, he said. "It seems most probable, particularly bearing in mind what I have heard about the rapidity in the

rise of the river level, that they were simply caught out and this was a tragic accident."

Mike Law, the leader of a hydrology team with the Environment Agency, said that the geography of the course of the River Wharfe meant that rain-water falling upstream would be bottled up in the narrow watercourses and arrive down river in a sudden surge.

The couple had stayed overnight in the hotel where they had held their wedding reception and driven up to Yorkshire the next day, Sunday, August 16. They had kept the location a secret from their families. The next morning they had gone out for their fateful walk.

Mr Law told the hearing that although the Sunday had been fine and Monday was

dry, there had been a heavy downpour at the head of the river in the early hours.

Keith Watson, an angler from Ilkley, West Yorkshire, was fishing the Wharfe near Bolton Abbey with a friend on the day the Colletts vanished. He said: "Conditions changed rapidly. The river had become unfishable in less than a minute, a matter of seconds. It was in heavy spate, the water was really tumbling down. It was heavily discoloured, a deep peaty colour and came right to the top of the bank."

Charles Hoyle, a river bailiff, said that the rise had surprised him. "It rose by about 5ft in a minute or less," he said. He had seen something similar on half-a-dozen occasions during the six seasons he had worked on the river.



Lynn and Barry Collett: swept away in River Wharfe

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Wounded going home

Age Britain were milk men

Wounded Knee shirt is going home to the Sioux

Museums fear flood of repatriation claims after landmark decision in Glasgow, reports Shirley English

A SACRED shirt worn by an American Indian warrior thought to have died at the massacre of Wounded Knee in 1890 is to be returned to the Lakota Sioux.

In what could turn out to be a landmark decision, Glasgow City Council agreed yesterday to hand back the bloodied, beige calico tunic, adorned with eagle and owl feathers and punctured with bullet holes, to the Lakota Indians in South Dakota.

The ghost dance shirt was given to the city in January 1892 by a translator working with Buffalo Bill Cody's travelling Wild West Show, which was wintering in Glasgow that year. Since then it has

been on display in a glass case at Kelvingrove Museum in the city.

Museums across Britain are packed with cultural and religious artefacts collected from around the world and, in the past, claims for their return have been considered in private and objects returned with minimum publicity. But Glasgow's decision to return the ghost dance shirt, however, was debated in public for the first time and, it is feared, could open the floodgates to other claims.

Maurice Davies, deputy director of the Museums Association, said: "Some museums, particularly high-profile places like the British Museum, are very concerned. The number of repatriation requests is growing."

Research carried out last year by the association revealed 17 similar repatriation claims, although privately it is thought the figure is much higher.

The ghost dance shirt is believed to have been taken from a dead body after Wounded Knee as part of the gruesome souvenir trade that followed the massacre, which ended the resistance of Native Americans to white colonisers. The



Marcella Le Beau: she thanked Glasgow

Glasgow shirt is the only one outside America.

Yesterday Marcella Le Beau, or Free Rainbow Woman, who led the delegation from the Wounded Knee Survivors Association, offered an emotional thank-you to the people of Glasgow.

"It's like a great thanksgiving and I want to cry. I thank you very, very much," she said.

Mrs Le Beau, 75, a direct descendant of Rain In the Face,

who claimed to have killed Colonel Custer at the battle of Little Big Horn in 1876, said a spiritual ceremony called Wiping of the Tears would be held to mark the shirt's return, which is likely to happen next spring. Glasgow City Council will now have to apply for an export licence.

The request to return the ghost dance shirt was first made six years ago, when it was spotted in a Glasgow exhibition by an American lawyer, John Earl, who was touring Scotland.

Initially the claim was rejected and then, in 1995, a delegation of Lakota Sioux arrived in Glasgow to negotiate for the return of the shirt, which they believe is sacred.

The ghost dance shirt was part of a religion that swept the Sioux nation in the 1890s. The warriors who wore it believed they could summon the spirit of their ancestors and would be invincible against the white man's bullet.

More than 250 men, women and children, travelling under a white flag, were shot by the

Seventh Cavalry at Wounded Knee in December 1890. Their frozen bodies were stripped and thrown into mass graves.

The shirt that arrived in Glasgow 13 months later will form part of an exhibition in a museum to be built near Wounded Knee. Until then it will be displayed at the Cultural Heritage Centre at Pierre, South Dakota. It has been agreed that it will be lent back to Glasgow for exhibitions, although the city has been given a replica hand-stitched by Mrs Le Beau.

Mark O'Neill, head of Glasgow's curatorial services, defended the "dignified and honourable" role of museums in exhibiting objects. He said that no precedent had been set and that all future claims would be decided on their own merits.

"A significant number of museums will feel threatened by this and will feel it opens the floodgates. However, all museums in Britain have legal ownership of their artefacts and it is up to them whether they return them," he said.



The Lakota shirt, thought to have been stripped from a body after Wounded Knee



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Sioux Falls
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Iron Age Britons were milk men

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

FRAGMENTS of pottery from an Iron Age site in Northamptonshire have provided the first hard evidence that early Britons were dairy farmers.

Cattle and goats were domesticated around 7000 BC, and pictorial and written records from the Sahara to Mesopotamia show that dairy farming began there between 4000 BC and 2900 BC. Scientific evidence of dairying in prehistoric Britain had been less clear-cut until Richard Evershed and Stephanie Dodd, of the University of Bristol, found the "signature" of milk on pieces of pottery from an Iron Age site at Stanwick, which may be up to 3000 years old.

While milk contains a different mixture of fatty acids from body fat, the differences between the two become less distinguishable over time. The two chemists, writing in *Science*, said that they developed

a new method of distinguishing between them by comparing proportions of the isotope carbon-13.

"Animals produce body fat and milk in different ways," Dr Evershed said. "When an animal is just grazing, it turns carbohydrates from fodder into body fat. When it is lactating it uses another route in which fatty acids from grass go directly into the milk."

The carbohydrates and fatty acids in grass contain slightly different proportions of carbon-13. The same difference was detectable, they found, between body fat and milk fat, meaning that traces of milk fat can be detected in ancient pots from the amount of carbon-13 in the residues.

Dr Evershed now plans to use the method, with the support of English Heritage and the Natural Environment Research Council, to investigate the significance of dairy farming in prehistoric Britain.

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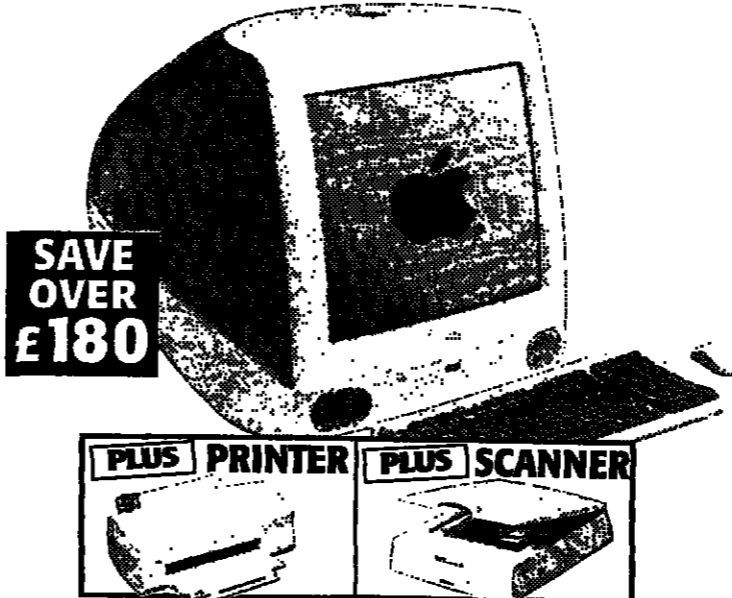
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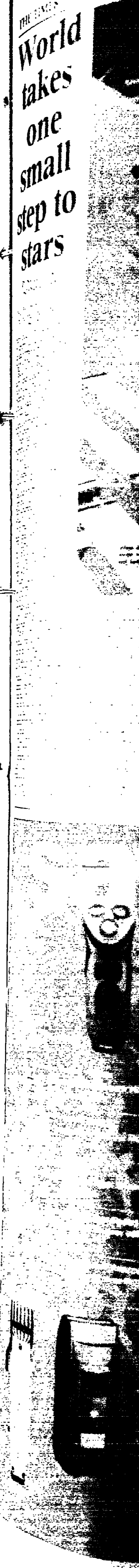
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World takes one small step to stars

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE first piece of the £13 billion international space station will be lifted into orbit early today from Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, and an enterprise long in the making will finally be under way.

Built by a Russian company, and launched by a Russian rocket, the 24-ton Zarya (Sunrise) was paid for by the United States. The module will provide propulsion, power and communications for the construction of the station.

"After years of discussing, planning and replanning, we are about to launch hardware," said Gretchen McClain, deputy associate administrator for the new station. Aleksandr Krasnov, of the Russian space agency's manned flight department, admitted he would be touching wood. So will the space agencies of more than a dozen other countries.

The Zarya cargo module, a \$200 million canister more than 41ft long and 13ft in diameter, will be a year late into orbit, largely as a result of Russia's economic problems. It will be followed by Unity, an American-built linking module to be launched aboard the space shuttle in December.

Then will come the service module, a Russian-built component and the main reason for the delay in starting assembly. To ensure that the service module will be ready for launch by the middle of next year, the US has been forced to bail out the Russians again.

If all goes well — and few but the most incurably optimistic expect it to — the station would be complete in 2004, after 34 shuttle missions, nine unmanned rocket launches and 60 Russian launches carrying general supplies. Assembly of the 400-ton station will involve bolting together at



most 100 components in more than 1,700 hours of space walks — twice as much as the accumulated total by Russian and American astronauts in the first 37 years of space flight.

Statistically, there is every chance that launch failures or slip-ups in space will set back the timetable. The loss of one of the big truss segments that make up the station's backbone would be a particular problem. Calculations suggest that the chances of every mission carrying an important component going perfectly are less than those of flipping a coin seven times and coming up with seven heads.

What nobody yet knows is whether the space station will capture the imagination, now that it is finally getting under way. NASA, fresh from the success of the John Glenn mission, hopes so. "Our challenge is to maintain this level of public enthusiasm," says Joe Rothenberg, head of NASA's spaceflight office. "If the public turns against us, Congress will turn even faster."

Seasoned observers such as John Pike, space policy director of the Federation of American Scientists, suggest that watching the station being built may have some of the fascination of peering through building site hoardings. "My

conjecture is that building the space station is going to be more interesting than watching the shuttle going round in circles," he told the *Los Angeles Times*. "It has a plot line, a beginning, middle and end."

Britain has made virtually no contribution to the programme so far, but the door was opened recently by Lord Sainsbury, the Science Minister. He expressed an interest in having a British astronaut on the station. To achieve that, Britain would need to make a concrete contribution, perhaps by providing special motors designed to stop the station drifting back to Earth.

Michael Roale, the British-

born astronaut who flew on Mir and is now deputy director of the Johnson Space Centre in Houston, says that the space station will be the first stage in "a progressive exodus" of human beings from Earth.

The next stage after that would be Mars, then mining the asteroid belt and establishing outposts in the outer solar system, before a starship could leave for other stars.

"That will happen," Mr Roale said. "And without the space station we will never do the international things we need to do to go to Mars by way of the Moon and then out to the asteroid belt."

British drive may win through

BRITAIN decided more than a decade ago that manned space flight was too expensive and its contribution to the space station matches that view (Nigel Hawkes writes). But things may be about to change.

When the British-born astronaut Michael Foale visited Britain recently, he brought a list of technologies that NASA wants and Britain might be able to provide.

One example is ion propul-

sion engines — low-powered devices that might be used to keep the station from drifting out of position. The Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) has been working on them for more than 20 years and, with Matra-Martoni, is devising units for installation on a European Space Agency satellite.

If Britain did become involved with the space station, it would create the possibility

of putting a British astronaut on board. Lord Sainsbury, the Science Minister, said: "If the right project comes, we'll go for it. I wouldn't say it's absolutely top-priority, but there is a real chance it might happen." Britain's first astronaut, Helen Sharman, who was trained by the Russians and visited Mir in 1991, said: "I think it's right and very timely that we should have a proper British astronaut now."

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Tories refuse to co-operate over Euro elections

WILLIAM HAGUE yesterday substantially raised the stakes in the confrontation between the Commons and the Lords by refusing to co-operate with the Government over the defeated European Elections Bill when it is reintroduced.

The Tory leader's hardline stance surprised and delighted most Conservative MPs, but worried some Tory peers who felt he was going too far.

But it meant that the chances of the Bill becoming law in time for next June's elections were again diminished despite signs after its loss on Wednesday that the Conservatives would allow it fair wind when it comes back in the new session of Parliament next Tuesday. Mr Hague appeared to have overruled the apparently conciliatory line taken by Viscount Cranborne, Tory leader in the Lords, in the immediate aftermath of the result.

Tory backbench peers expressed amazement at Mr Hague's stance and gave warning that he might not be able to rely on them to carry on the fight. "It is completely daft," one said. "We should quit while we are ahead."

Others accused the Shadow Cabinet of using the Lords "to do their dirty work in the trenches", in the full knowledge that hereditary peers would be blamed. "They seem to be quite prepared to shed a little blood down here," one

Hardline stance leaves peers in fear of retribution, write James Landale and Philip Webster

said. Traditionally government Bills that have been defeated by the Lords swiftly become law in the subsequent session of Parliament.

But the Government has set a deadline of mid-January for the Bill to go through, arguing that it will need the interval between then and June to train electoral office staff.

Mr Hague's refusal to budge overshadowed the disclosure yesterday of a clash between Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown over the Government's attitude the previous day. It emerged that Mr Ashdown telephoned Mr Blair to warn him that co-operation between the two parties was at risk because of the Government's apparent readiness to ditch the Bill.

He is believed to have told Mr Blair that it would be a "breach of faith" if the Bill was not pushed through. His intervention explained the Govern-

ment's change of tone after the Lords defeat when Baroness Jay of Paddington, the Lords leader, announced that the Government would be using the Parliament Acts to try to force it through.

Mr Hague, after consulting close colleagues and advisers yesterday morning, said he would not "co-operate or acquiesce in any way" with the plan to introduce the "undemocratic" closed list system. Ministers insisted that unless he did it would be impossible to get the Bill through all its stages in time.

But a source close to Mr Hague said that although the Opposition would not actively obstruct the Bill it would not "roll over and have its tummy tickled".

Tony Blair said that without co-operation the measure would not reach the statute book in time. "If they play that game we have got to go back to the old system," he said. "They can use the Tory majority they have got in the House of Lords to scupper us and that is what they have done," he added.

The clash with the Lords will dominate the next parliamentary year at least because of the Bill abolishing the voting rights of hereditary peers in the new programme.

Leading article and Letters, page 25



Lady Falkender with the late Lord Wilson of Rievaulx. Joe Haines alleges he acted to stop claims about her private life

Wilson 'used spy to protect Falkender'

By MARK INGLEFIELD, POLITICAL REPORTER

HAROLD WILSON used a private detective to spy on one of his former ministers when he discovered he was about to release damaging information about his Downing Street secretary, Marcia Falkender, it was alleged yesterday.

It is claimed that George Wigg (later Lord Wigg), who had served as the then Prime Minister's Paymaster General, was out to discredit Mrs Falkender by publishing a book that contained "excoriating criticism". Among the revelations was that Mrs Falkender had had two illegitimate children.

The disclosures have been made by Joe Haines, who was Wilson's press secretary, in



Wigg: Haines says Silkin was told to spy on him

this week's *Spectator* magazine. "The pot was about to boil over," Mr Haines writes. "Among his (Wigg's) threatened revelations, it was rumoured, was the reproduction of the birth certificates of her two illegitimate sons, whose ex-

istence was not generally known at the time of writing. Wigg had been one of Wilson's closest confidants. But he had become dangerous when he fell out with the Labour leader in 1967 after resigning his government post.

After Wilson returned to Downing Street in 1974, he instructed John Silkin, who was the Minister for Planning and Local Government, to keep an eye on him. "Silkin hired a private detective to trail Wigg and report back his findings," Mr Haines writes.

The private eye diligently followed Wigg one evening to a one-bedroom flat in London occupied by a woman.

"Wigg did not emerge until the next morning. It was also said that the woman had a son. The inference drawn —

how validly I haven't the faintest idea — was that Wigg was his father."

Mr Haines said that Wilson handed him a scrap of paper bearing the address of the woman, but he did not do anything about it. "I lost it before I could decide whether I wanted to be responsible for such a nasty piece of information."

Wilson's actions are not surprising. He was fiercely protective of Marcia, whom he later made Lady Falkender.

The claims follow the revelation that Wilson may have told the police to frame Wigg on what proved to be a failed kerb-crawling charge in 1976.

Mr Haines said that Wigg, who as Paymaster General had had special responsibility for the security services, was "the man who knew too much".

Hague is playing a schoolboy game with the constitution

WILLIAM HAGUE is playing adolescent politics. He and his advisers quickly need to learn some constitutional history, rather than just seeking the cheers of Tory MPs. They are in danger of making the same errors their predecessors did in 1909-11 over the original Parliament Act limiting the powers of the Lords. The Conservative leader is ignoring both the conventions on which the working of our constitution depends, and the checks and balances that he emphasised on Wednesday.

By convention, the Lords is entitled to ask the Commons to think

again on an issue, once, even perhaps twice, but no more. Then, the Lords accepts that the elected House should get its way. Of course, there are issues where the Lords would be right to fight on — and it retains an absolute veto over legislation extending the life of a Parliament beyond five years. But the choice of closed versus open lists for the election of Members of the European Parliament does not remotely come into that category.

Tory peers have already breached this convention. Lord Weatherill, the former Commons Speaker, who is against closed lists

said: "What will be remembered is that this unselected House frustrated the will of the Commons on five occasions."

Lord Garel-Jones, former Tory Deputy Chief Whip and arch-triguer, said that if the Government was defeated, it would be a defeat for the Lords and for the Tory party. "Politics is about being grown up. The House is not a sixth-form debating chamber but a grown-up, integral and influential part of the parliamentary process. Its place and high reputation are based not only on the high quality of debates but on the instinct that

Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

your Lordships have shown for knowing to what point the elected chamber can be pushed."

After the Bill was dropped for this session, it looked as though good sense would prevail. Baroness Jay of Paddington announced that the Bill would be reintroduced under the Parliament Act. Vis-

count Cranborne, who knows all about what the Lords can and cannot do, responded that Tory peers "are aware of the limitations on the rights of this House and I hope that we will behave accordingly when the Bill is reintroduced".

Lord Cranborne's caution was quickly overruled by the more gung-ho Mr Hague. He said the Tories would not co-operate in getting the fresh Bill onto the statute book by the mid-January deadline which ministers think is necessary if the new system is to be introduced for next June's Euro-elections. While there is no reason for

the Tories to change their view of the Bill, his intransigent language could make the Tories look obstructionist.

These tactics are reminiscent of the wrong-turning that the party took in 1909-11. A large number of Tory/Unionist peers vowed to "fight and die in the last ditch" against limits on their powers. Balfour, the party leader, believed the "ditchers" were being "essentially theatrical" and their language was largely for "music hall consumption". The "ditchers" were only trumped by the announcement that the King would agree to the

creation of sufficient peers to carry the Bill. However, the Opposition became increasingly strident over the following three years, even to the brink of illegality over Ireland.

The Tories now have a choice over the Bill to abolish the voting rights of hereditary peers. They could capitalise on the Government's fuzziness over the long-term future of the Lords by focusing on the "what next?" question. Or they could defend the hereditary peers, which would please the ultras but play into Tony Blair's hands. Mr Hague and his advisers need to think a lot more before they react.

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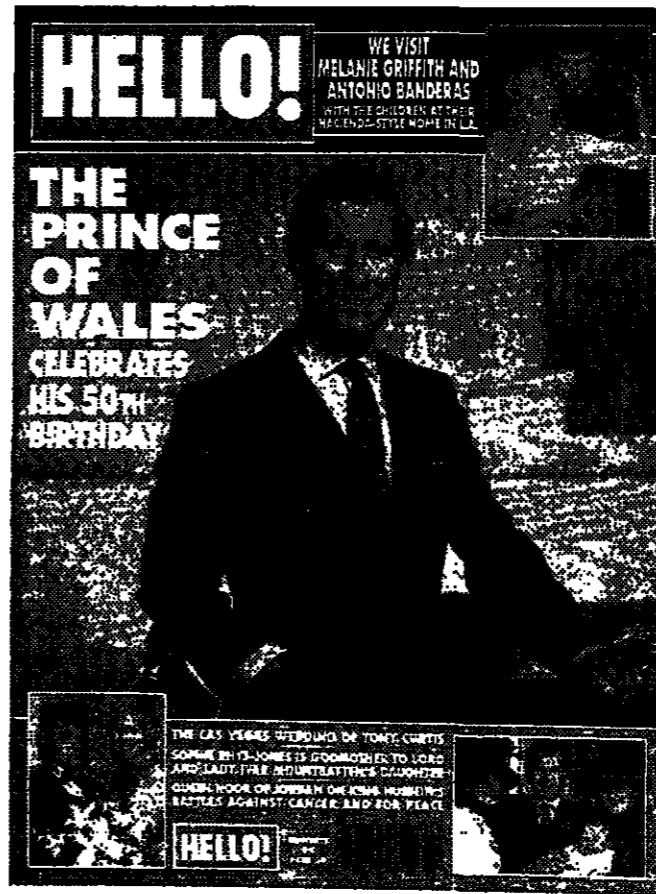
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Italy faces trade war as Turks demand 'terrorist'

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A TURKISH boycott of Italian goods began to bite yesterday as Italian industrialists said they feared that the worsening row between Rome and Ankara over a detained Kurdish leader would "badly damage" lucrative trade.

Turkey stepped up its pressure on Italy to extradite Abdullah Ocalan, 49, who was arrested at Rome airport six days ago, and the Italian press predicted an imminent "diplomatic rupture" between two key members of Nato's Mediterranean flank. "Rome and Ankara on the brink," said a headline in *La Stampa*.

Turkish importers yesterday announced a boycott of Italian shoes, machinery and jewellery, and protesters destroyed fruit and foodstuffs imported from Italy.

Italy is the second-biggest exporter of goods to Turkey, with exports so far this year worth £1.5 billion. Some of Italy's best known companies have invested heavily in trade with Turkey, including Benetton, Pirelli and the food conglomerate Barilla. "The Turks are cancelling contracts right and left," said an Italian businessman at a Milan trade fair.

Travel agents said that Turkish tour operators had cancelled all bookings to Italy and withdrawn advertising. Italian sports fans — nearly every Italian — also fear that next Wednesday's European Champions League match between Juventus and Galatasaray in Istanbul will turn into a violent anti-Italian demonstration, and may have to be cancelled.

The scale of Turkish fury over the arrest of Mr Ocalan, founder of the Marxist PKK (Kurdish Workers' Party), seems to have taken Italians by surprise. For Turkey, Mr Ocalan is a criminal responsible for 30,000 deaths since 1984 caused by the Kurdish uprising in southeastern Turkey.

But many Italians are sympathetic to Kurdish independence, and Catholic charities have offered shelter to hundreds of Kurdish refugees who have arrived on Italy's southern coasts illegally. "Ankara's anger is misplaced," said Cor-

riere della Sera, pointing out that constitutionally, Italy could not extradite anyone to a country where the death penalty still applied. "It is also ironic, since Italy has done more than any other European country to advance Turkey's ambition to become a member of the European Union."

La Stampa said it was "perplexing" to see the Italian tricolour being burned by "demon-like" Turks. Massimo D'Alema, the normally mild-mannered Italian Prime Minister, reacted with unusual vehemence to Turkish suggestions that by failing to hand over Mr Ocalan, Italy risked being seen as an "accomplice to terrorism".

Signor D'Alema said that Italy would follow "the proper legal procedures", and it was not in the habit of "bowing to intimidation".

The Italian leader also referred to Zulfikar Yilmaz, a 30-year-old Kurd who set fire to himself in a Rome street this week in protest against Ankara's attempts to have Mr Ocalan extradited. Mr Yilmaz, one of thousands of Kurds who have converged on Rome to lobby the Italian Government to grant their revered leader asylum, is in hospital with burns to 40 per cent of his body. Signor D'Alema said that "when a human being sets fire to himself to assert his ideas and defend his rights, you have to listen carefully to what he is saying".

However, Signor D'Alema also emphasised that Italy was "a friend and ally" of Turkey. He said the Ocalan affair was "not simply an Italian-Turkish problem", but had highlighted an issue — Kurdish independence — that had to be resolved by Europe.

"We expect total and active solidarity from the rest of Europe on this," the Italian leader said. But his offer to talk to Turkish leaders in the margins of the Juventus-Galatasaray match was rejected by Mesut Yilmaz, the Turkish Prime Minister. He said Signor D'Alema would have to "come and see me in Ankara".

Leading article, page 25



Conditions are grim in medical facilities in the Russian prison system, such as in this jail in the North Caucasus. Tuberculosis and HIV infection are common

Russian psychiatrist dreams of Broadmoor

Hope is in short supply for inmates, writes Anna Blundy

THERE is a woman in Oryol who dreams of Broadmoor. She speaks lovingly of the green lawns stretching out towards the security fences, the tall trees in the surrounding area and the main hospital building itself. "Just like a castle," she says with a sigh. "I think of it often. I had a little room at the top overlooking the gardens."

Tatyana Kotov is director of Oryol High Security Psychiatric Hospital in central Russia, an institution housing 800 patients, one of whom is a woman, all of whom have committed murders. 95 per cent of whom committed their crime under the influence of alcohol and a third of whom are suffering from tuberculosis.

Walking in the bleak hospital grounds and comparing the place with the relative luxury of Broadmoor, which she visited last year, one can sympathise with Mrs. Kotov. Overwhelmingly depressing, the hospital consists of a few squat, hastily erected Soviet buildings, a farm where patients breed *oyu* — rodents — for meat, a lot of iron bars

and a few concrete paths across bare earth that is either muddy or frozen, depending on the time of year. The people who come here, and they include serial killers, spend an average of two and a half years overcoming their psychological illnesses with the help of drugs and psychotherapy (although both are in short supply). Broadmoor, says Kotov, has a turnover of about 60 patients a year out of 500, whereas Oryol is forced to release up to 400 a year.

"Broadmoor has 25 people in a ward, where we have 90," she adds. "We have 550 medical staff to 500 patients. Their security guards have medical training. We have nearly double the number of patients and half the number of staff: 250, of whom 100 are

security guards provided by the Interior Ministry." Patients spend most of the day in small, bare cells housing up to eight people.

The tuberculosis epidemic, says Mrs Kotov, is a nightmare. "We started with one TB ward, then two, three and finally four out of 11," she says. At the moment there are more than 90,000 prisoners throughout Russia suffering from TB, many of whom caught the disease in prison. Patients used to help at local factories but these all closed after the economic crisis began to bite in August, and now, for the most part, they seem lethargic and bored. "They are almost all uneducated, from miserable backgrounds with nothing to look forward to in life. That is why they used to drink."

Mrs Kotov laughs at the suggestion that there might be enough money for all the anti-psychotic drugs she needs. "We don't feed them as we would like and we don't have the medicines, the addition experts or the psychotherapists we need. This is not Broadmoor."

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Honduras Emergency Appeal

International Care & Relief (ICR) has received an urgent request from the Honduran Ambassador for emergency relief supplies in the aftermath of the terrible disaster that has swept over Central America.

Hurricane Mitch hit Honduras last week leaving 5,273 dead and 11,083 missing. Over 2 million people have lost their homes. Entire communities have been wiped out and bridges have been destroyed. 70% of staple crops have gone.

Diseases such as cholera, typhoid, malaria and dengue fever are in danger of becoming endemic as a result of stagnant water where bodies still remain.

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Crusoe treasure hunt on rocks

TREASURE hunters were yesterday forced to give up a search on Robinson Crusoe Island, 400 miles from Chile, after they hit solid rock at a site where they believed they would find a hoard of gold and diamonds (Gabiella Gamini writes).

A team led by Bernard Keisser, a Californian scientist and bounty hunter, had been digging for five days. They had hoped to find treasure worth more than £7 billion.

Mr Keisser said he would resume the hunt after more research. But Chilean officials said further permission to dig on the nature reserve in the Juan Fernández archipelago might not be given.

The scientists had followed satellite images believed to pinpoint the treasure, thought to have been buried in 1718 by the crew of the English ship *Unicorn*. Mr Keisser said the gold was most likely being transported from Mexico to Spain, when it was taken by British pirates.

His research had indicated that the gold was buried near the Robinson Crusoe cave, where the Scottish castaway Alexander Selkirk — widely believed to have been Daniel Defoe's model for his book — supposedly lived in 1704-09.

Clinton grilled about affair by Tokyo woman

PRESIDENT Clinton, who might have thought he had left the Lewinsky scandal at home, was embarrassed to be confronted over the affair by a Japanese housewife last night.

Fielding questions at an American-style public meeting in Tokyo, Mr Clinton was challenged by an Osaka mother of two through an interpreter.

"How did you apologise to Mrs Clinton and Chelsea?" she asked. "I'd never be able to forgive my husband for doing that. But did they really forgive you, Mr President?"

Looking uncomfortable, Mr Clinton said: "Well, I did in a direct and straightforward manner and I believe they did, yes." After a burst of self-conscious laughter from his audience, he added: "But that's really a question you could ask them better than me."

The presenter handling the questions for a television audience then hurriedly shifted the discussion to safer topics.

Mr Clinton, who is in Tokyo to urge Japan to take swifter action to revive its economy, appealed directly to the public to bail their country out of its worst economic slump since the war by spending and consuming more. He touched on the threat to the global economy posed by Japan, where the pessimism of consumers and their reluctance to spend have

Even in Japan the President cannot escape his past, Robert Whyment writes

stunted growth in the world's second biggest economy.

"I think that anything that can be done to boost confidence in consumers and to boost consumption is a good thing," he told the meeting.

But Mr Clinton said that Japan was "essentially moving in the right direction" by reforming its sickly banking sector and stimulating domestic demand.

The President is to meet Keizo Obuchi, the Prime Minister, today. With Japanese imports falling, and the American trade deficit swelling, Washington is deeply frustrated by Tokyo's failure to promote domestic demand and open its markets.

Mr Obuchi may find it easier to push through economic legislation needed to cope with the recession after a surprise political realignment yesterday. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party announced it was forming an alliance with the

opposition Liberal Party, a move that puts the ruling party within reach of a majority in the Upper House.

Mr Obuchi said he would assure Mr Clinton of "Japan's firm resolve to return the economy to positive growth" and explain how a new \$196 billion (£122 billion) stimulus package would help to pull Japan out of its recession.

Also on the agenda is the expansion of the military alliance between the two countries that has formed the backbone of the Japan-US relationship since the end of the Second World War. Mr Clinton is expected to urge Mr Obuchi to speed up legislation to allow Japan to shoulder a bigger security burden in Asia. President Clinton has said he wants today's meeting to also focus on ways to reduce the threat posed by North Korea.

Experts say the real importance of the visit, which will last just 28 hours, is that it is a symbolic gesture to salve Japan's injured pride. Tokyo felt slighted when Mr Clinton went to China in the summer without making a stopover in Japan. The sense of hurt at being bypassed was so acute it spawned a new Japanese-English expression in the local media, "Japan-passing", to signify that the US now sets more store by ties with China.



A Mayan woman wraps a traditional shawl around Hillary Clinton in Antigua, Guatemala, during the First Lady's Central America tour. She praised the country's return to peace after civil war and announced more aid for victims of Hurricane Mitch

Perón invited Nazis to live in Argentina

By Gabriella Gamini

NEW evidence has emerged to show that Argentina's late former President, General Juan Perón, encouraged a policy of inviting Nazi war criminals to take refuge in his country after the Second World War.

A team of historians, scientists, Jewish leaders and officials who comprise a government-sponsored commission, investigating Argentina's role as a Nazi shelter, has found papers that show Perón discussed Nazi immigration in meetings at his palace.

The team was created nearly two years ago in response to accusations that some of the gold that was looted by Nazis from victims of the Holocaust might have been transferred to Argentina.

Ignacio Klich, a prominent leader of the 300,000-strong Jewish community in Argentina and head of the commission, said that they had seen notes made by Perón's adviser, Pierre Daye. They show that senior officials met at the Casa Rosada palace to discuss opening "Argentina's doors to fleeing Nazi officers".

The commission says documents show that Perón signed the approval to create an official network to help to bring European immigrants, including war criminals, to Argentina. It says that at least 150 Nazi "Holocaust" propagators arrived or passed through the country after the war.

However, the papers do not provide a list of names of those who entered the country. Although it is widely known that notorious Nazis such as Josef Mengele and Adolf Eichmann lived in Argentina for many years, investigators are keen to uncover a full list.

Señor Klich said the documents show that "Perón and the participants at meetings were aware of the background of these characters". Perón is said to have sent officials to Europe to "pick out" Nazis who could bring scientific and technical skills to Argentina.

Bodies of tortured children uncovered

By Gabriella Gamini, South America Correspondent

COLOMBIAN authorities are investigating the killing of 25 children whose skeletal remains were found in an overgrown ravine and at a nearby abandoned building site in the western city of Pereira. The children had apparently been tortured before their deaths.

Police found the bodies of 13 of the children, aged between eight and 16, in an overgrown ditch beside a river on Tuesday. They had begun a search after electricians, who had been working nearby, reported a strong smell of decomposition and what they believed were animal bones.

Bottles of rum had been left near the remains, police said, and two "small, tortured bodies" were found tied to trees. "It was difficult to count the bodies at first because some of the skeletons were incomplete," said Elena Osorio, a state prosecutor in Pereira, 100 miles west of Bogotá. "But forensic examinations in the end

managed to put together the skulls to determine that 13 children were dumped in the ravine. There are signs of torture and most of the bodies were dismembered," Señora Osorio said.

In a previous incident, Pereira police last week found the skeletons of 12 children hidden in vegetation at an abandoned building site after an eight-year-old boy found a skull and took it home.

While prosecutors at first believed that the killings were the work of satanic cults, which are known to operate in the city, other evidence seems to indicate that this was yet another incident of "social cleansing" by the paramilitary death squads which terrorise much of Colombia.

"We think that these were street children and suspected juvenile delinquents who were killed by an extermination group," said Luis Alberto Duque, the city's mayor.



Perón: sought Germans with scientific skills

Dismissal secures fortune for mogul

From Giles Whittell in Washington

A TOP film executive is to receive an estimated \$30 million (£18.75 million) in compensation for being fired, confirming a trend towards failure as the quickest route to wealth in Hollywood.

Frank Biondi Jr, 53, already has \$15 million from a previous sacking to add to the eight-figure payout he negotiated before being removed on Monday as chairman of Universal Studios. He joins a group of multimillionaires whose fortunes came from professional humiliation.

Last year, Mike Ovitz left the Walt Disney Company with stock options worth \$130 million after a disastrous 14-month tenure there as president. This year, Jeffrey Katzenberg ended a court battle over his departure from the same studio in a settlement worth more than \$100 million. Three years ago the head of the Time Warner group's music division, Doug Morris, was fired with \$32 million.

"We'd like management to explain how this benefits us," a spokesman for a big institutional shareholder in Seagram, Universal's parent company, asked yesterday of the Biondi settlement.

One high-priced Hollywood lawyer argued that, like film stars, top showbusiness executives are rare, sought-after and adept at negotiating "exit plans". But there is no simple explanation for such payouts except greed, and no parallel in other industries.

WORLD IN BRIEF

French law tackles sport drug taking

Paris: The National Assembly passed a Bill giving France one of the world's strictest anti-doping laws in the wake of this year's Tour de France cycle race, which was thrown into chaos by drugs scandals (Susan Bell writes). Under the stringent new measure, the Ministry of Sport is to be given the right to raid premises and to order athletes to undergo drug tests. Anyone who is found guilty of supplying athletes with drugs will face up to seven years in prison and a fine of Fr1 million (£105,000).

\$1bn global lottery

Geneva: Two thousand people will become millionaires on the first day of the next century in an international lottery to help the world's poor. The International Millennium Fund was set up in association with the International Federation of the Red Cross charity and the Red Crescent, its Islamic sister organisation. The organisers hope to raise \$1 billion or more from the lottery, which will be televised worldwide. (AFP)

US militants convicted

Billings: A federal jury found members of Montana's Freemen guilty of robbery and fraud, ending a saga which threw a spotlight on a new breed of militant anti-government group in the American heartland. Sentencing was set for March. The prosecution said conviction was just punishment for the Freemen, who in 1996 sweated through an 81-day armed confrontation with the FBI outside a fortified ranch. (Reuters)

Ice traps aid ships

Moscow: A Russian oil tanker and an atomic-powered ice-breaker, sent to relieve 4,500 residents who are without heat in freezing temperatures on the Chukotsky peninsula in Arctic Russia, have become stuck in ice 40 miles away. Tass reported. The *Sovietsky Soyuz*, the most powerful ice-breaker in the world, has been unable to cut a path through the ice. (AFP)

Film cuts out Thais

Bangkok: Frustrated by official disapproval over its script, 20th Century Fox announced that it is dropping Thailand from plans to shoot a new version of *Anna and the King* starring Jodie Foster. Shooting for the remake of the classic films *Anna and the King of Siam* and *The King and I* will be moved to neighbouring Malaysia. (AP)

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Starr testimony upstaged by a sleepy sideshow

Eyelids droop as independent prosecutor makes his stand, writes Damian Whitworth in Washington

POOR Kenneth Starr was oblivious to what was happening behind him. At last the independent prosecutor had the chance to respond to the heap of criticism and abuse that has been poured on his head.

Seven television networks were transmitting every word he had to say about his investigation live and uninterrupted across the nation. But behind his left shoulder, those who were lucky enough to have a ringside seat at the historic event were not even listening. They were asleep.

First, the eyelids of a large man in the row immediately behind the witness table started to droop, flutter briefly, then close.

His head nodded; he suddenly awoke — and then he succumbed once more.

Then the Asian man behind him went the same way. As he slumped to one side, a hunched, grey-haired man in the third row was also revealed: he was snoozing happily, like a tramp who had come in from the cold to watch the sentencing of traffic offenders at a municipal court.

For a man who has been vilified, and who is viewed negatively by almost two thirds of the American people, this was supposed to be the moment to put his case and, some Republicans hoped, get the impeachment process back on track.

The image could not have been worse — and one can only guess what effect it had on those slumped in their armchairs at home watching the proceedings.

Mr Starr, unaware, carried on reading his opening state-



‘The President could choose truth or he could choose deception’

ment in clear, almost hypnotic tones. When John Conyers, the ranking Democrat on the committee, had torn into him in his opening remarks, Mr Starr had stared on unblinking, his head tilted upwards with an air of defiance. When he began his address to the House Judiciary Committee and the nation, he was totally confident.

Occasionally he would gesticulate, gently but firmly, with one hand to emphasise a point.

Mr Starr said that Mr Clinton had half a dozen opportuni-

ties to tell the truth about the Monica Lewinsky affair in the past eleven months.

‘The President had to take a decision. He could choose truth, or he could choose deception. On all six occasions he chose deception.’

Referring to President Clinton’s deposition in the Paula Jones case, in which he said he had not had sexual relations with Ms Lewinsky, Mr Starr said: ‘No one is entitled to lie under oath simply because he or she does not like the questions, or because he believes the case is frivolous or financially motivated or politically motivated.’

The independent prosecutor said that throughout his investigations, which began by inquiring into the failed White-water land deal, the White House had placed ‘road blocks and hurdles’ in his path. Mr Starr, who has been painted as overzealous and politically motivated by Democrats, said he had expected criticism and that in high-profile cases such as this, would be damned whatever he did. ‘You must just do what you think is right.’

It emerged yesterday that the committee is to widen its inquiry beyond the Lewinsky affair by calling other witnesses. Originally Henry Hyde, the chairman, said he would just hear Mr Starr.

Now he wants to cross-examine President Clinton’s lawyer, Bob Bennett, and the presidential confidant, Bruce Lindsay, and wants a key document from the Justice Department laying out allegations about Democratic fundraising.



A passer-by makes a close anatomical inspection of the bronze elephant sculpture unveiled in the gardens of the United Nations in New York

Red-faced UN tries to cover up unruly member

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

FRESH from its standoff with Iraq, the United Nations now finds itself confronted by another troublesome member. The latest international crisis revolves around a four-tonne bronze sculpture of an elephant — donated by Kenya, Namibia and Nepal for the gardens at UN headquarters — that boasts an enormous penis.

Almost 3ft in length, the organ near-

ly touches the ground between the elephant’s legs. Officials were so shocked when they examined the gift before an unveiling ceremony on Wednesday that an aide to Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General, recommended that the beast be castrated. ‘It will frighten the children,’ he exclaimed.

The beast was cast by a Bulgarian-born sculptor, Mihail Simeonov, on a trip to Kenya 18 years ago. Aided by 50 assistants, he tranquillised an elderly bull and spent two hours applying cast-

ing material before releasing it. While it was sedated, however, its penis extended. ‘Usually the genitalia are withdrawn and it is hard to tell a male from a female,’ a UN source said.

Hans Jantschek, chairman of the group that raised money for the project, said: ‘I received a call from the Ambassador from Nepal, who said, ‘The penis is enormous. There has to be a surgical operation.’

The elephant won a reprieve, however, from Mr Annan himself. At the

opening ceremony, the sculpture was tastefully surrounded by newly planted shrubs that hid its penis from the tourists visiting UN headquarters.

The UN is considering planting tall ‘elephant grass’ as a permanent solution. ‘The sheer size of this creature humbles us,’ Mr Annan declared mischievously as he unveiled the gift. When asked if he would order surgery, the UN chief replied: ‘That’s nature’s way. I’m not going to tamper with nature.’

Manhattan asks architect to repeat Bilbao masterpiece

BY JAMES BONE

THE Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, based in Frank Lloyd Wright’s famous spiral building on Fifth Avenue, has quietly asked Frank Gehry to draw up plans for a new architectural wonder to be built on a spectacular site on the Manhattan waterfront.

The Los Angeles architect, who designed the Guggenheim’s acclaimed titanium-clad branch in Bilbao, has begun producing preliminary drawings for what would be New York’s first purpose-built mu-

seum since Marcel Breuer’s Whitney in 1966.

The projected site is 15 acres on Pier 40, a former dock on the Hudson River that lies an equal distance from the downtown gallery district of SoHo and the burgeoning art world of Chelsea. Since taking over as director in 1987, Thomas Krens has expanded the museum in an effort to show its entire collection, adding branches in Berlin and SoHo as well as Bilbao. Further additions are under consideration in Paris, Salzburg and Venice.

Mr Gehry’s stylishly curv-

ing building in Bilbao, which cost \$100 million (£62.5 million), has attracted more than 1.4 million visitors since opening last year and been hailed as one of this century’s most important works of architecture. The architect was first introduced to Mr Krens by Peter Lewis, the head of an Ohio-based insurance company who commissioned him to design a \$30 million house.

Currently the chairman of the Guggenheim Foundation, Mr Lewis is reported to have promised substantial funding for the new project.



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Meet the world's best loved welder

SADDAM HUSSEIN is a man of many talents: a loving family man, concerned social worker, welder, Kurdish chef, general, pilot, architect and bikeish buddy of the masses.

We know this because the polyglot Iraqi autocrat has an army of portrait painters who capture every pose imaginable, and some that are beyond comprehension.

According to artists based at the Saddam Arts Centre, a brown concrete eyecore in the centre of Baghdad, "between 50 and 60" painters work full-time on capturing his exploits on canvas. And that does not include the ceramic workers who have immortalised Saddam in 6ft-high shining room-lights on almost every street corner. "But there are only about five of us who have done more than 50 portraits. I've done more than 100," said Muhammad Ali Karim, who trained at the capital's academy of fine arts.

His 9ft by 6ft canvases of the President are usually ordered wholesale by ministries anxious to ingratiate themselves with he-who-must-be-obeyed. They sell for between £100 and £200.

Saddam has been seen only a few times in the flesh over the past two years. He prefers to maintain his hold over 20 million people with a personality cult that is designed to give the chilling impression he is capable of everything, or anything. Mr Karim's work

Iraq is dominated by a personality cult that betrays a huge and frightening ego, Sam Kiley writes



Young followers visit Baghdad's Saddam Museum

shows his master in a benign state, laughing heartily from beneath a Bedu head-dress; poring over building plans and bouncing a small child on his knee, his Havana cigar plume mysteriously inoffensive to the smiling toddler.

Other painters capture a little more of the reality of the man. One portrait shows him talking notes from Arab women crouched at his feet. Tucked into the back of his trousers is a pistol, perhaps a reminder of the urban legend that he once lost his temper with a minister

during a Cabinet meeting, and shot him dead.

Mr Karim said of the pictures: "Everybody wants one. Unions, factories, companies, workshops, private individuals — they like to donate them to a neighbourhood and hang them over the street."

Other works show Saddam taking time off from a busy schedule of country-running and cat-and-mouse charades with United Nations arms inspectors looking for his alleged stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction. He throws

together a fry-up with soup in what looks like the kitchen of a caravan.

Welding is a favourite hobby. Every night the television shows an incoherent collage of his many talents, hotly broken up with welder stunts.

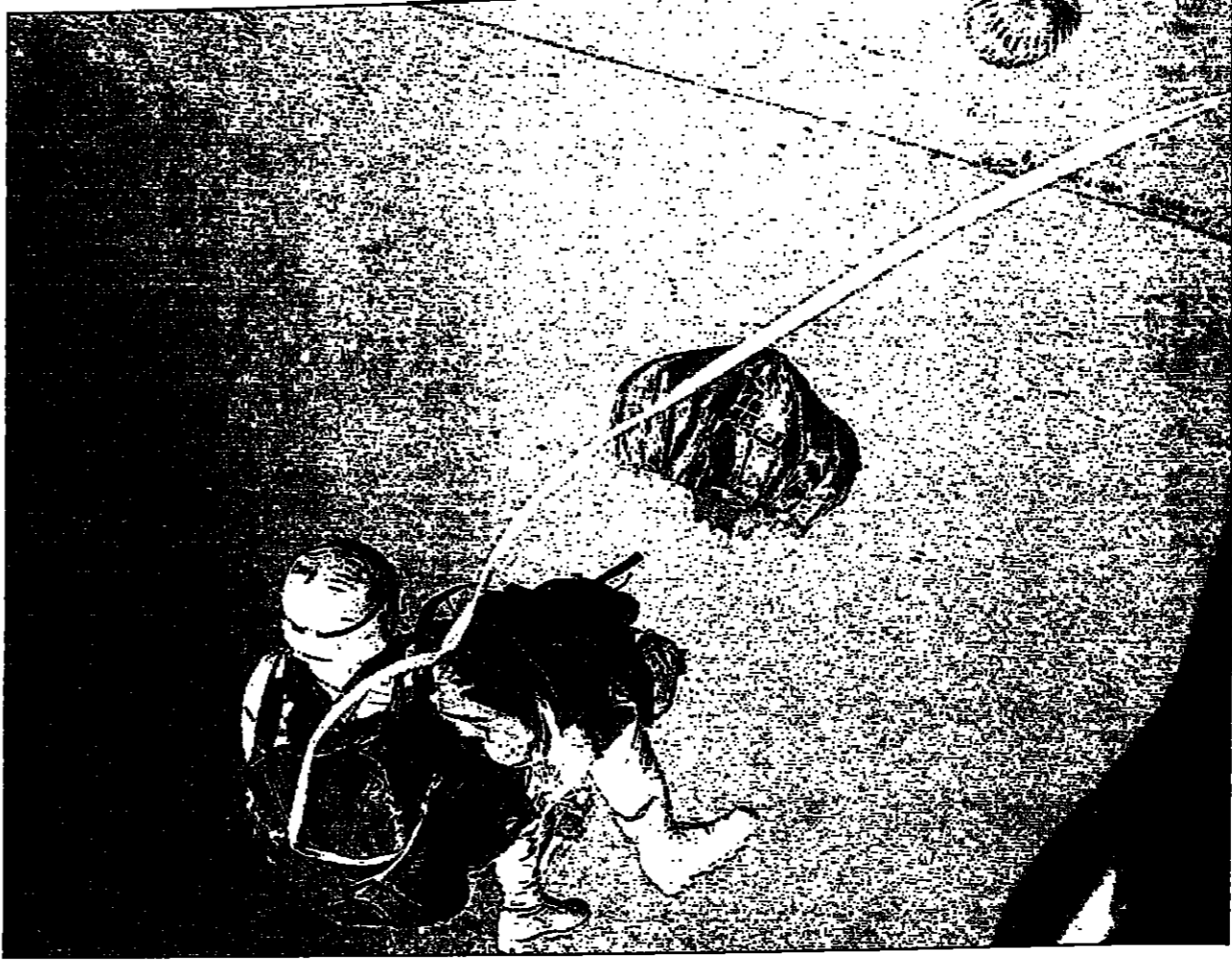
If a man's danger to the world were revealed by the size of his ego, Saddam, whatever military danger he might pose, must rank as having one of the most worrying personality disorders in the solar system. Not satisfied with portraits, murals and tiled effigies, he has scattered Baghdad with vast bronze statues of himself.

Many show him in his trademark salute, hand held above the shoulder, palm flat — a pose, diplomats say, he is capable of holding for so long during military parades that they have begun to suspect that it is a prosthesis.

Since the 1991 Gulf War, Saddam has also built scores of palaces all over the country, including several in Baghdad, visible from the River Tigris.

But perhaps the most revealing image of Saddam hangs in the Iraqi Embassy in Amman, the Jordanian capital. He stands, propped up by a single ski stick, his other hand leaning proudly against a tree as if he had just shot a wild boar.

He wears mid-calf leather boots, a long fur collared coat, a Russian hat — and he bears an unmistakable likeness to Stalin.



A soldier of the US Army special forces makes a parachute jump from a Blackhawk helicopter in an exercise over the Kuwaiti desert yesterday. About 90 soldiers were involved in the exercise, which US spokesmen said was aimed at maintaining their combat skills but had nothing to do with the latest tension between Iraq and the UN.

The jumps, conducted in the desert near Ali al-Salem Air Base, went without a hitch, according to Major John Bullion, the company commander. (AP)



Smoking leaders' legacy catches up with Chinese

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

MAO smoked Great Wall cigars, and Deng Xiaoping lit up continually as he played cards. Now China is experiencing a catastrophic epidemic of smoking-related diseases.

Two surveys involving 1.25 million people in the world's leading tobacco-producing country show that up to 2,000 Chinese a day are now dying of smoking-related diseases. By 2050, if present trends continue, that could rise to about three million a year.

The two studies are the result of a long-term international collaboration between Oxford University, the Chinese Academy of Preventative Medicine in Beijing and Cornell University in the United States.

Two thirds of Chinese men start smoking by the age of 25, and three quarters of all Chinese men are smokers in a total population of 1.2 billion. Average per capita consumption

rose from one cigarette a day in 1952 to ten in 1992, but appears to have stabilised.

In the West, smoking causes many heart-related deaths, but in China most such deaths are caused by respiratory diseases, the surveys indicate.

In London, Dr Alan Lopez of the World Health Organisation told a news conference: "In the West, cigarettes cause lots of heart attack deaths, while in China smoking causes unexpectedly large numbers of deaths from tuberculosis, emphysema and stomach and liver cancer."

"Worldwide, the only really big causes of premature death that are growing rapidly are HIV and tobacco."

HIV is also a growing threat in China with about 300,000 confirmed cases.

Few Chinese women smoke and the number is falling even as smoking in men increases, according to the reports. How-

ever, trendy young women in Beijing like to be seen with cigarettes, apparently as a fashion accessory. Surveys show that two thirds of Chinese people think smoking does little or no harm.

Dr Zhengming Chen of Oxford University said the increase in tobacco consumption did not appear to be a result of promotion by cigarette companies, since smoking had been rising since the 1970s — before China allowed advertising.

The Government is taking some action. Fewer Chinese leaders are photographed smoking, most internal flights are smoking-free and tobacco advertising is banned in several cities. Airports have fuggy rooms set aside for smokers.

But taxes from tobacco remain an important source of government income. And Mao and Deng, after all, confirmed that even smokers may live to a ripe old age.

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The cost of living goes up at Christmas

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Objects of desire

Tradition has it that the best-dressed fireplace wears a stocking at Christmas, and Tapissierie has some of the best. Its selection of hand-painted tapestry canvases can be painted to order and personalised with a name, favourite toys or hobbies. Prices start at £125. Tapissierie also offers a two-hour needlework class at £48 and a sewing service for those who prefer to have the work done for them (0171-684 2745).

Boden's first Christmas catalogue is brimming with sumptuous velvet cushions, silk ties, cashmere socks and the prettiest floral cotton wash bags. Available as a box bag, £25 (WR119), a triangular zip bag, £20 (WR115), or a bucket bag, £30 (WR114), they are all PVC-lined to prevent travel mishaps (0182-453 1535).

Every good frock deserves a party

Here comes the party season. The mantelpiece at home is crowded with invitations, my son and his nanny have graciously given permission for me to go out. All I need now is the right frock. Yet, somehow, though the wardrobe door can, with difficulty, be closed on all the devoré velvet and embroidered satin and glitter tweed in unorthodox pastels, handloomed by disapproving islanders who think that the Lurex is the work of the Devil, I find I haven't a thing to wear.

Don't be silly, I say to myself, looking through the crummed rails. Here is last year's brilliant Lacroix knock-off from Next, a vision of black Chantilly lace over a sapphire satin slip. Surely that would go round again? Not to mention the Warehouse silver lace and the little black velvet workhorse by Jasper Conran. Get yourself some high heels, a bag and some glittery hair-slides. I tell myself (there are crimson velvet heels at L.K. Bennett that would stop traffic and enamelled hairclips at Angela Hale from about £25. Miss Selfridge does some pretty, pale blue enamel flowers with diamanté centres for £3 a pair, and Accessorize has an enticing range of beaded bags) and there will be no need for a new dress. Then the next thing I know, I am standing in the King's Road, nose pressed to a window behind which there glitters some enticing bit of frivolity, hand reaching for my chequebook.

For most of the year, I buy my clothes strictly according to Shirley Conran's brilliant rule of cost-per-wear — the E-m² of fashion. Everything is bought on the strict understanding that it can be worn for at least a decade without going badly out of fashion.

Thus, for example, my bitter-chocolate cashmere sweater with the turn-back satin cuffs by Amanda Wakeley has retired from public appearances this winter because the colour is just too last year. But I don't for a moment regret buying it because I feel certain that its beautiful simplicity and general air of good breed-



Set the party alight in this stinky number by Amanda Wakeley for Principles, £200, sizes 8-16. Stockists: 0171-291 2405

ing will be sufficient to justify the alarming amount I paid for it. If I am right, I shall be wearing it in my Bath chair when I am 80, by which time its cost-per-wear will be down to 0.001p or so.

To party frocks, however, this principle does not apply. Faced with the prospect of your own office party, your husband's office party, and drinks on Christmas Eve with the frightfully nice woman to whom you chat at the school gates on a daily basis, though you know her only as Lucy's Mummy, you can suddenly find yourself carrying on like Ivana Trump.

The only thing to do about this feeling is give in to it. Wanting a new frock for a party is a basic instinct, like hunter-gathering. Fighting it is against nature and will do you no good in the long run. You will go to a party in last year's dress, feeling cross, sink a large glass of chardonnay to

CUTTING EDGE

JANE SHILLING

raise your spirits, and then patronise the new marketing manager, and fail to recognise the headmistress of the school into which you have been trying for five years to get your daughter.

Better to go straight to the high street for some pretty wisp of stuff that emits a cheerful glitter and can be consigned to oblivion along with the decorations on January 6.

Morgan does the very thing — a cloth-of-silver shift for £49.99. Disobliging things have recently been written about Marks & Spencer, but its bronze and old rose devoré velvet shift looks far more ex-

pensive than its £60 price tag. Monsoon has a dressing-up box collection of beaded shifts in exquisite colours — dull gold beads on black; bronze on rose-red chiffon; black and silver flowers on grey ombre; pale gold trellis across creamy chiffon, and jet-beaded black lace over a gilt silk skirt. They look like little works of art, and start at about £120.

Karen Millen has dresses for sirens — holly-berry red with a swag of black bead roses, or an outrageous ruby corset dress with black embroidery. If you prefer a subtler approach, there is a long cream dress with crystal beads and a black velvet evening coat with a white fur trim and embroidery.

Principles has velvet column dresses of extravagant simplicity designed by Amanda Wakeley, from £130, and a dramatic black crepe dress with a side slit and heavy silver bugle beading for £100. I also like the subtle sparkle of the knee-length black glitter crochet shift, sprinkled with black sequins, £60.

But if, having practised investment dressing all year, you find that you can't break the habit, you might sink your Christmas money into Nicole Farhi's wonderful Prom Queen dress — a cloud of pale grey pleated silk organza with a fitted top and a swishy crinoline skirt. It costs £430 and demands to be worn with plenty of diamonds. If you're going to make an investment, it might as well be a serious one.

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Eye make-up removers

VITAMIN AND ANTI-OXIDANTS, £4
Heavy glass bottle but difficult to get the thick, gel-like liquid out. Ineffective on mascara without a lot of rubbing, and it stings.
Purify from Marks & Spencer 4/30

DUAL PHASE, £16.75
Contains two liquids — one clear, one blue — which combine after shaking. Works well on waterproof mascara with no stinging. Smells like catnip.
Chanel, available at boutiques and major department stores 20/30

ANTI-WRINKLE, £12.50
Excellent product, leaving no morning puffiness around the eyes. Not too greasy and removes eye make-up with a couple of wipes.
Lancôme, at major department stores 8/10

HYPO-ALLERGENIC, £3.99
Light and non-greasy texture with pleasant smell. Feels like rosewater. However, it has to be applied liberally to remove toughest mascara.
Laboratoires Garnier, Skin Care, available at Boots, Superdrug and chemists nationwide 10/10

BI-FACIL SENSITIVE, £12.50
Cool blue liquid is light, non-greasy and suits contact lens wearers. No fragrance, no stinging and removes waterproof mascara in one wipe, with no signs of residue in the morning.
Lancôme, available at department stores and selected chemists 10/10

CUCUMBER AND EYEBRIGHT GEL, £2.25
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Natural Collection at Boots 7/10

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For those inclined to over-indulge in blusher, a simple swipe with Lancôme's fibre-optic brush, £20, and Poudre Majour Blanc Neige, £19.50, will tone down a colour overdose. Unlike most powders (which leave a chalky white residue), this product has tiny "microbubbles" that give the skin a matt finish, reflecting light to give a soft, golden glow. It can be used on the T-zone and cheekbones, and to highlight the brow, neck and shoulders (but never under dark circles). Available from leading department stores and selected chemists nationwide.

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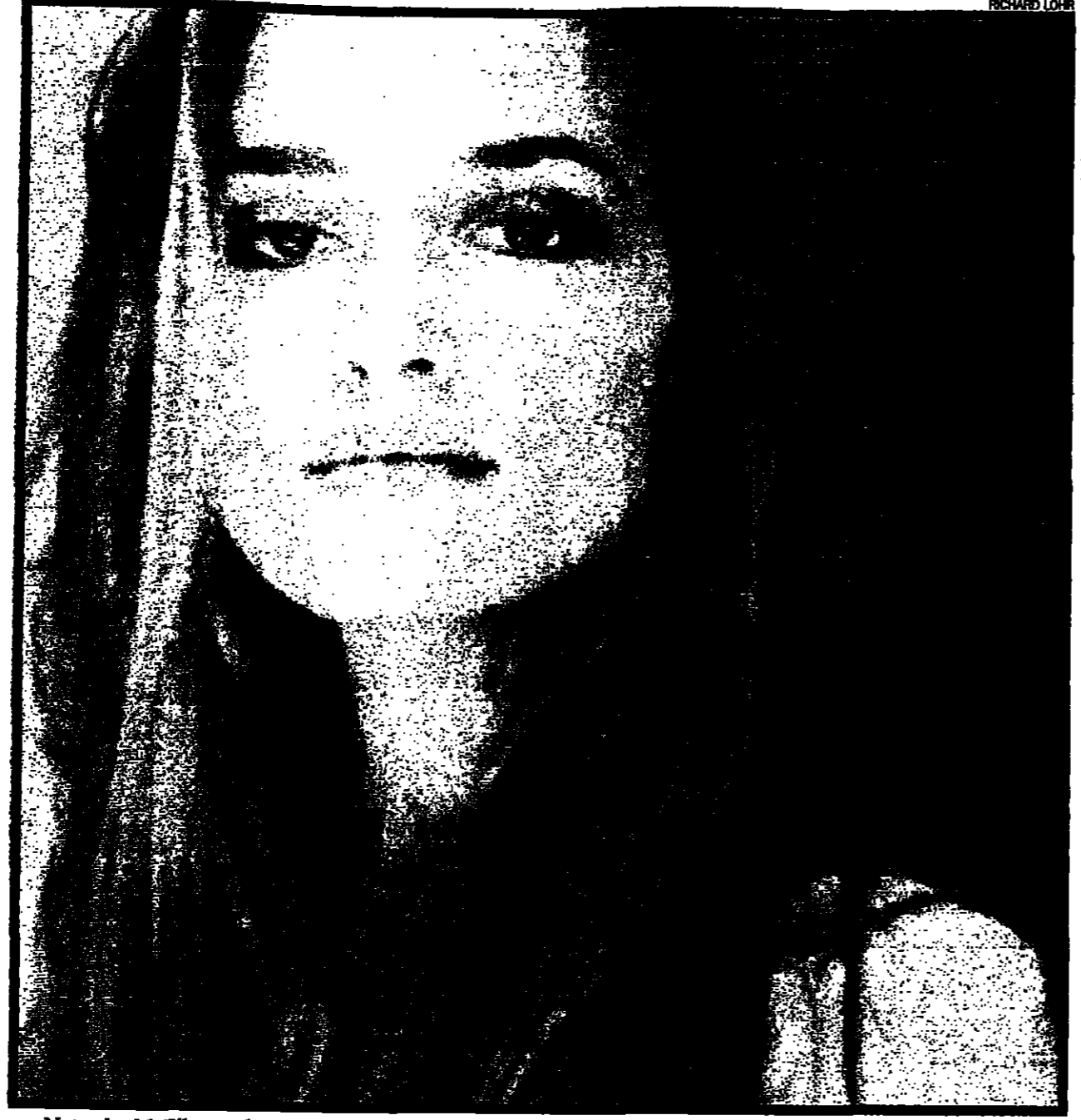
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Natascha McElhone: she gurgles with delight at the idea that her beauty might make people treat her differently

Fighting for face cream

With the world teetering on the brink of at least six ugly new wars, it seems a poignant moment to relay my own taste of army life — of being huddled among panicky crowds, deafened by the din of confused voices, made nauseous by the stench of sweat in the air. This was in my local high street last Saturday.

Of course, I couldn't swear that those rowdy, sweaty people were British soldiers in civilian dress. But it would certainly help to explain the recent swell in high street populations if the Army has begun hiring out underemployed soldiers as part of its new commercial strategy to earn money in peacetime.

Look at the mysteriously large crowds that fill the new coffee bars springing up across the country. Every retail site that now falls vacant is shuttered up for two weeks before emerging from its chipboard pupa as a Starbucks or a Coffee Republic or one of the other new chain cafes which — because they know how to use an espresso machine — can be relied on to serve you a coffee that is consistently more expensive than what you would normally pay.

One minute there was a rundown grocery store on this very site, the sort of place where you'd buy food only if you were trying to poison a relative who had named you as a beneficiary in his will. In ten years of walking past this store, you never saw a customer in there. Then it reopens as a coffee bar and from day one, boom! It's bursting with people. Where do all these new customers come from? Have they suddenly discovered a raging thirst for cappuccino? ("Darling, switch off Richard and Judy, we're off to Starbucks. In fact, from now on we're always going down to the high street for our elevenses.")

You can only assume that these coffee bars are so anxious about appearing unpopular that they employ extras to fill the room. That's where the Ministry of Defence comes in. The Army, seeking profitable ways to diversify its activities so as to ward off further personnel cut-

backs (the Territorial Army is the latest casualty) must be hiring out squaddies as crowd-fillers.

It makes a lot of sense, especially when you study the Army's other diversification proposals. I'm referring particularly to plans by Porton Down, the MoD's germ-warfare laboratory, to produce cosmetics for civilians. One of its prize products is an anti-wrinkle cream derived from one of the world's deadliest biological agents, botulinum toxin (sales pitch: "Declare war on wrinkles with our Instant Face Nuker. Note: keep out of reach of children, pregnant women and enemies of Nato. Should any ointment fall into enemy hands, wash your own hands thoroughly of all involvements. Gas masks not included").

Scientists swear that if you use botulinum toxin in teeny quantities, it merely suppresses the cells that cause wrinkles rather than killing you. Rob Walker, who runs Porton Down's new science park, says: "We have to make things that are realistic in the commercial world. The mindset you need to approach a supermarket is very different from the mindset you need to approach a military customer." (Walker's colleagues probably learnt this the hard way. Porton Down official: "We guarantee to wipe out a supermarket full of customers within three minutes." Supermarket manager: "I don't know how long you've been involved in consumer



MAN ON TOP
JOE JOSEPH

retailing, but even our supermarket doesn't treat its customers that badly").

Another exciting commercial sideline that the Army is considering is breeding pheasants. It hit on this idea after hearing anecdotes from country sportsmen about how pheasants that had suffered direct hits from a shotgun simply carried on flying. Research funded by the MoD has now found that the reason pheasants can withstand such shots is that the spines of their feathers are constructed in a way that enables them to absorb much of the energy of a bullet. The Army now thinks that pheasant feathers could inspire a new generation of bullet-proof jackets.

The irony is that not only are these enterprising initiatives making the Army more cost-effective, they are benefiting Britain's security, too, by destabilising our enemies' espionage networks. Veteran foreign spies are being sacked by their bosses for inventing fanciful field reports ("You expect me to believe that Britain's SAS is spending its time testing moisturisers and breeding game birds? You're fired!").

Very soon, even the lyrics of the Victorian music-hall song will have to be rewritten to keep up with the Army's changing priorities. The words learnt by rookies will be changed to: "We're all trained to fight, but by jingo if we can't/ We'll gloss our lips, we'll rest our Brens, and build a face-cream plant."

I was the most tasteless little girl

Natascha McElhone is Britain's newest Hollywood star. Interview by Vanora Bennett

She looks somehow familiar. But the understated Londoner who drifts into an understated Italian restaurant in Notting Hill is subtly unlike the Natascha McElhone you expect from her screen roles.

This woman is worlds away from Sylvia, the wholesome, all-American girl pined for by Jim Carrey in *The Truman Show*. Nor is she anything like Deirdre, the gritty and enigmatic Belfast blonde in *Ronin* is to co-ordinate a heist.

Today's Natascha McElhone is willowy and carefully anonymous: her accent is British neutral. A hat covers her waist-length blonde hair. When she shrugs herself out of a long brown coat, all that is revealed is more of the same elegant but unflamboyant brown.

The actor's ability to retreat behind the greasepaint and emerge a different person is something she works hard to maintain. "As an actor, the one thing I have is to keep my own true identity hidden," she says. "If I reveal it then I'm limiting the possibilities of what I can play. The less one knows about an actor, the more plausible it is that you could pull off any role."

McElhone's London persona — she is newly married to a plastic surgeon and lives in Notting Hill — is articulate, amusing, sophisticated, self-aware and self-deprecating. She gurgles with delight at the idea that her beauty might make people treat her differently. ("God, no. I wish!") She wolfs down a pudding after a hefty main course with an unstarlet-like appetite.

She has been certain all her life that she had to be an actress. "I can never remember wanting anything else. It's just something I grew up with. I don't know where it came from, there's no acting in my family. School was purgatory, just waiting time."

McElhone grew up with her mother, Noreen Taylor, and stepfather Roy Greenslade, both journalists — her parents separated when she was two and she uses her mother's maiden name. Her family supported her acting without making it a major issue, she says, and there was never any question of her going to a stage school.

"God forbid. My mother would never have let me do that, though I probably wanted to. I think I was the most tasteless child imaginable — I liked lots of, you know, pink frilly things."

She believes that what she mockingly calls her "nut rissole" upbringing helped. "My brother was never given any guns and I was never given any dolls. There was no sexual stereotyping, any of that sort of thing. But I think that was all quite good."

"Both my brother and I think it had an impact, having the freedom of not having to behave like a little girl or a little boy — it being perfectly OK for him to burst into tears or me to beat him up if I wanted to. And maybe that led me to freedom of expression."

Beneath her charm there's a stillness and serenity about McElhone. Is this an intrinsic quality or does it stem from the happiness of a person for whom everything is going well? She is modest about her

apparently effortless rise towards stardom in the past two years.

Since James Ivory of Merchant Ivory picked her out — from a theatre cast playing Shakespeare in Regent's Park Open Air Theatre — for her first big film role in *Surviving Picasso*, the 27-year-old actress has gone from strength to strength. She has acted opposite male stars so illustrious that the list reads like a Hollywood *Who's Who*: Anthony Hopkins, Harrison Ford, Brad Pitt, Jim Carrey and, in *Ronin*, Robert De Niro.

"James (Ivory) is like my fairy godmother," she says. "At the time I think I was fairly blasé about it. I was like, 'Oh, he wants me to do a film. That's nice.' It's only when I've gone on and seen how hard it is and how competitive, how many people are up for each role, that I realise what a massive risk he took."

She shrugs off any suggestion that making movies is glamorous. "It's probably just like it is in an office. It's the same infrastructure, the same human behaviour, isn't it? It's people being in conflict or in harmony, being in a bad or a good mood, work going well or badly. There's nothing different about it except that you are creating illusions."

She is enthusiastic about the car chases, gun-toting and wild sports that *Ronin* gave her the chance to try. "It was terrifying, completely and utterly. Very little acting required. But fun. You know, thrilling, racy, your heart's going *b-dong, b-dong, b-dong* and you kind of love it and hate it at the same time — and you're dying for it to end, but when it does you're like 'oooh, can we do it one more time?'"

Whatever part comes next for her, McElhone radiates fascination with acting's games with the unknown. Describing watching her brother, the actor Damon McElhone, at a recent stage performance, she says with wonder: "It was the strangest feeling. I now know what it must be like for my family seeing me on film or on stage. My brother came on stage and I thought, 'That's him! I know him!' ... but I don't. I don't know what he's doing and I don't know what he's about to do. He's someone else."

'Making movies is probably just like it is in an office'

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Why Blair is going soft on EMU

Mary Ann Sieghart lays bare Labour's ulterior motives

Is Tony Blair warming to the euro? He would deny it, and insist that the Government's policy has not changed. But his mood seems to be changing and that is more important. The danger is that he could not only do the wrong thing but do it for the wrong reasons.

If the Prime Minister wanted Britain to join the single currency because he was convinced that the economy would rapidly deteriorate outside the system, I would argue with his analysis but at least accept that his decision had been honestly reached. Instead, he is in danger of being seduced by EMU for reasons that are less to do with economics and more to do with political strategy, not just overseas but also at home.

First, the European dimension. Yesterday Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, visited Gordon Brown. Mr Blair has already met the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, and seems to have been less than impressed. Herr Schröder is still nervous and new, and is in thrall to the tougher and more left-wing Herr Lafontaine.

The Prime Minister may be tempted into making ever stronger declarations of intent until, eventually, nothing short of EMU membership will suffice. If he resists, he could be pressurised into all sorts of other compromises in order to maintain his "leadership". For instance, the manifesto drafted by Mr Brown for the 11 socialist finance ministers includes moves to harmonise taxation, which would, at a stroke, destroy an important part of Britain's competitive advantage.

Mr Blair is in danger of falling into the trap set by the Foreign Office for all prime ministers: that influence equals national interest. We have to agree to the Maastricht treaty/join the euro/have a common defence policy (substitute as necessary) because otherwise we will lose influence in Europe. And maximising influence is the chief goal of diplomats. But what if the sacrifice necessary to gain this influence is harmful to the national interest? Britain might have less influence outside the single currency but still be better off overall. It is the job of the Prime Minister to assess that balance and to recognise that the Foreign Office has vested interests like any other government department.



Philip Howard



And the People's High Priest spake unto the Peers

Then, Verily, the Lord declared unto the Commons People and unto the People's High Priest, Tony Blair. Five times have ye sent up to me your accursed European Elections Bill, even as many times as Benjamin's portion was greater than any of the other portions. And five times have I sent it back to you, yea, with my emendations. When will ye ever learn. O ye froward and naughty generation, which art as deaf as the adder that creepeth upon its belly to Jim Naughtie in the Dawn Wilderness of the Today programme?

2. Accordingly the People's High Priest summoned the Assembly of the People by blowing upon all the silver pagers and answerphones made of rams' horns at Millbank Towers; and when the whole Assembly was gathered all together, with its Spin-Physicians and television cameras armed and ready for the fading bong of the News at Ten trumpet, the High Priest Tony Blair spake unto the People in his wrath and said:

3. First, the good news: I have beaten the Ancient Hereditary down to Ten Commandments of the Lords. Next the bad news: adultery is still one of them. Next the inexplicable news: the Lords in their folly have chosen the open-list system for the Lottery of the Europeanites. But who are these Peers and Pharisees suddenly to become so tender for the elect of the People? For, lo, they are descended from the most tightly closed list of all, being either descendants of the King's Mistress unto the eleventh and twelfth generations, or cronies of the Philistines.

4. Moreover, democracy is by no means a Salient Feature of Holy Writ. For in the days of our fathers My People cast their votes by lot, having done a lot of praying first. By lot they discovered a candidate. By lot they chose their MEPs. Yea, by lot they ordered the courses of men in office and decided a controversy.

5. And when Judas Iscariot of Old Labour in Judaea went disastrously off-message and was terminally desecrated from the party list, behold his successor was chosen from a party shortlist. Two names were put forward: Joseph, who was known as Barsabbas, and Matthias. They drew lots and the lot fell on Matthias, who was then assigned a place in the Cabinet.

6. That was a form of AV with a party-list concocted in an incense-filled room. And only under AV could we achieve the scripturally correct results that the many that are first in the open lists shall be last, and the last shall be first. The only example of PR with an open list for the People to choose from elected Barsabbas, who was a robber. And he is not a happy precedent.

7. Moreover, Children of the People, ye know full well that the ancient voting systems of our fathers known as Urim and Thummim were by no means one-man-one-vote or OMOV in the modern Scriptural correctitude. In the original Hebrew, these words mean "shining" and "perfect". But according to St Jerome "doctrine" and "judgment". However, they were worn in the breastplate of the High Priest at election time, and seem to have had much the same function as black balls and white balls among the Tribes of the Athenaeumites and the Savillies.

8. Therefore, O Children of the People, do ye desire a mighty man of valour, honest, straight-talking High Priest? Or do ye want me? For truth is what ye get from a politician who hath given up all hope of becoming High Priest.

9. Then all the People murmured, and imagined a vain thing. Notwithstanding, they voted as the Whips told them. As bloody usual.

10. And the Lords responded with a loud voice. Murmur us no plausible murmurations, thou High Priest. For we have no time for PR, ATV, STV, PVC, STD or others of your Urim and Thummim, beloved by psychological nudniks and nerds. It ill behooves us to stand up for popular elections. First past the post has until now never been our slogan, unless we were given the start of the generations of Methuselah, the grandfather of Noah. But nothing in our hereditary lives shall become us as our leaving it. And we shall go down with guns blazing. On a matter of principle. Which is as rare a creature as a Phoenix in the desert of politics.

Dead in the centre

Our small towns are sad at heart. Planners should look abroad for ideas

Newbury is bypassed at last. A mighty river of concrete is, as of now, carrying 32-tonne juggernauts far from the ramblers of the old town. The glades of Kennet and the heights of Donnington may echo to the roar of internal combustion, but the lanes of downtown Newbury thrill to the songthrush and the Berkshire burr. The local council has pedestrianised the town centre. A hundred million pounds of taxpayers' money has bought Newbury peace.

Just for the record, Newbury could have been pedestrianised long ago. The new bypass is its second. A previous one was built in the 1960s with up-to-date "roundabouts" to slow the through traffic, such being the fashion of the day. That bypass could, at modest cost, have been upgraded. But roads engineers must eat. A Tory Treasury had £100 million to burn and countryside in need of development, so why pay less? The latest bypass will become as congested at the old one, but I doubt if any more road will be built. Newbury was the highpoint of demand-led motorway building. If one day it becomes a seething, belching mass of coagulating metal, nobody will care. By then ministers will be travelling by helicopter. Car drivers will be as neglected as Charing Cross commuters.

I am more interested in the fate of Newbury. Small towns have long been Britain's pride and joy. Most big cities were ruined in the 1970s and 1980s, but have the critical mass for regeneration. The current revival of inner Newcastle, Glasgow and Birmingham is a wonder to behold. They have their lottery grants and their lobbies, as the countryside has its subsidies and marches on London. Small towns have no champions. Their streets decay with cut-price stores or are torn apart for crude mini-malls, frantic to compete with out-of-town hypermarkets. They either retain traffic in the hope of passing trade, or exclude it in the hope of pedestrian uplift. Which is their obsession with more housing in the countryside has left their plots vacant and their upper floors empty.

I love small towns. There is no England more utterly pleasant than Devizes or Ludlow or Beverley or Whitby. They combine the diversity born of size with the intimacy of smallness. Fictional Barchester, Midleham and Casterbridge were of a

facades beam down on them, reminiscent of a Spain that must have vanished with the Civil War. Today the place ranks with Perugia and Salzburg among the world's most glorious small towns.

The familiar British response is to dismiss all this as the charm of fine weather, poor residents who have no cars, and a local "sombbrero" culture. This is rubbish. The pedestrianised town centres of northern Europe are cold, wet and rich. They are crowded with people who own as many cars as do the British. Nor do such streets depend on tourists.

Their success lies in the meticulous planning of traffic, land use, building design and public space. Above all, it lies in the regulation of development in the surrounding countryside.

Simon Jenkins

fields round ancient Chichester has sucked money from its centre like a reverse vortex. The town is under economic siege. The pennants of Tesco and Sainsbury flutter in menacing array beyond its walls, as they do round half the small towns of England.

As long as English towns lie depressed and partly empty, there is no conceivable justification for spoiling what remains of the countryside round them, merely to appease housebuilder donors to party funds. Such planning is crass. Nor are towns saved merely by removing through traffic. People will use towns only if they retain their commercial magnetism.

Newbury is not a second-homers' delicatessen, like neighbouring Hungerford. It is a coherent settlement, built since the 16th century on the old Bath Road by the old bridge over the River Kennet. It has a fine high street, church, park and town hall. But it cannot survive without people living and working in its centre. It needs the vitality of an evening life, of Hay-on-Wye in festival week, of Appleby during the fair — of Perugia or Guanajuato every night of the year.

The best-managed towns are those whose charm not only predates the motor car but postdates it. Cars are a brief folly of domestic transport. They offer the illusion that people can all enjoy the space and privacy of the countryside and the variety of the town, each supplied at either end of a strip of tarmac. The Government had only to supply the tarmac. This vision could survive only as long as cars were minority possessions. Today the tarmac clogs up. I believe that towns will eventually reassert their attraction to country people, but only after the countryside has been developed, congested and ruined.

The small towns of Europe (and Mexico) have succeeded in passing from a pre-motorised to a post-motorised state of grace, without having to pass through this purgatory of "market adjustments". They have not been enslaved to the rural myth. They have not been re-engineered for the age of the car, only to be re-engineered again, like Newbury, for its departure. Small towns are not the settlements of the past, but of the future. They work. Or at least they can, abroad.

Big cities can survive suburban shopping malls and sprawling low-rise estates. Small towns are murdered by them. Cities can rely on students, office workers, flat-dwellers and tourists. Small towns have few of these. They were formed as self-contained communities, of a few thousand people interdependent for most everyday services. Stripped of food shops, clothes shops, bookshops, restaurants, cinemas and the associated jobs and cashflow, a small town's other attractions are as nothing. The ring of supermarkets permitted in the

Hey man!

A GIANT mushroom is the latest spiritually uplifting exhibit to be lined up by those whizzos at the Millennium Dome. The 40-metre edifice is expected to be chosen as the centrepiece of the New Age Rest Zone (you know, pungent cigarettes, peace signs and deep chilling). It has been designed by Anish Kapoor (right), a trendy sculptor, with "ambient" acid house music by Brian Eno (left), the electronic pop maestro. The Dome confirms that this is one of the designs being given serious consideration.

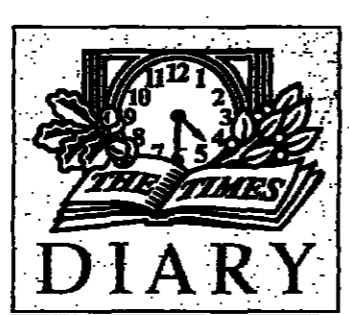
Kapoor has been encouraged by some big hats at the project. Phillip Gumudjian, Dome architect, is thought to have pushed the sculptor to come up with a design.

Gumudjian used to work with Lord Rogers of Riverside, who is on the creative review group that decides the Dome's contents. Rogers's architectural practice has just placed a Kapoor sculpture outside its new law courts in Bordeaux.

I just hope the project does not face the same fate as the Dome's sexually confused statue. It began life as an hermaphrodite but after much soul-searching metamorphosed into Britannica, a woman. Then it returned to its hermaphroditic phase before finally emerging, poor thing, as a man and a woman joined at the hip covered in children's faces.

Holy retreat
LORD RUNCIE has been thrown out of church for not being religious enough. The former Archbishop of Canterbury was on a pilgrimage to Mount Athos, home to monastic Serbs who are so orthodox that they barred females (even animals) for 1,000 years.

● **ERIC SYKES**, opening in Sir Peter Hall's production of Alan...



Donald Reeves, the old Red Rector who now writes for *The Tablet*, accompanied him to the "monastic republic" where they were worshipping. After venerating icons, "an elderly monk, probably the abbot, glared, shaking his arms to indicate we were not wanted."

Undaunted, they stayed. Then the monk came up to Runcie "and indicated we were to leave". The Brits put the inhospitality down to Serbian high spirits.

● **BOY David**, male model. Lord Steel of Aikwood, the former Liberal leader, whose taste in strident, multi-tonal shirts is legendary (he has a special weakness for those navy ones with white collars and blue stripes) has agreed to pose in the catalogue of the makers, Charles Tyrwhitt. Steel, pictured in his sartorial prime,

right, poses in "Bengal Sky." "We use our customers not professional models," says a Tyrwhitt man. "We didn't pay him." Very wise.

Dinner duo
WITH whom would you least like to have dinner? I puzzled on this the other evening as I strolled through the Commons. Sir Brian Mawhinney, that cheerless Ulsterman who led the Tories to electoral annihilation, was dining à deux with Mr Terence Wogan, whose penetrating ruminations interrupt Cliff Richard records on Radio 2.

Does this herald an excursion into light "entertainment" for Sir Brian? Or a mayoral dash for our



Tel? "No, no," says Sir Brian. "I look forward to our next dinner."

● A TASTY little gift awaits Jack Cunningham, courtesy of that nice John Prescott. Finding himself in downtown Buenos Aires, John-Boy headed for a restaurant and ordered a giant cut of prime beef with lashings of Specified Bovine Offal (ie, a T-Bone steak). After wolfing it down he declared that he wanted the bone gift-wrapped: "It will make a nice gift for Jack" — who brought us the ban.

Moved out
A JOLLY watering hole, where peers swig gin and grumble that they are growing too blind to shoot grouse, is being axed by Baroness Jay of Paddington. Leader of the Lords. She is replacing it with a "Labour Resource Unit", which sounds straight out of a Philip Gould manual and not much fun.

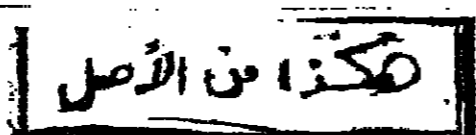
In the process, Lord McIntosh of Haringey has been turfed out of his study. The Deputy Chief Whip was crestfallen, but the thin controllers of new Labour have clearly got to him: "I am certainly not unhappy," he murmurs from his delightful new broom cupboard.

● A SPAT has broken out between Nina Simone and a charity over a



bar bill during the diva's sojourn in the London Hilton. The Cancer Research Campaign (patron: Lady Hurd of Westwell, Dougie's mistress) blamed Nina (above) for a £2,500 bill while here to perform for the charity. It also said she was rude on stage. "She was a nightmare," said a campaign type. Not so, says Nina. "She paid her bill. It was an MC who told the audience to be quiet, not Nina," says her agent. "It was my bill that couldn't be paid. A friend picked it up."

JASPER GERARD





LORDS AND PEOPLE

A fight on principle that must continue

The confrontation between Lords and Commons has revealed disturbing features of this Government's attitude to power. In opposition, new Labour campaigned for devolution and decentralisation. In office, its tendency is to centralise and control. Instead of being attacked for rejecting the European Parliamentary Elections Bill, the House of Lords should be thanked for performing two services. It highlighted an erosion of voters' rights, and revealed the need for an independent second chamber, able and brave enough to criticise a Government that enjoys a massive majority in the House of Commons.

Although the Government lost its Bill, it claims to have won a strategic victory. By defying the will of the elected chamber, ministers chant, the House of Lords has strengthened the Government's case for removing the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the Upper Chamber. This is a tactic designed to confuse. The substance of this week's debate must be disentangled from the future of the Upper House.

The House of Lords has not abused its power. Peers considered that stripping voters of their right to vote for the candidate of their choice, not just for a party, impaired democracy. Since the Government failed to make a convincing case for closed lists, peers were entirely justified in voting against the Bill five times. Voters at the general election did not know that the Labour Party intended to introduce closed lists. Labour said in its manifesto that it "long supported a proportional voting system for election to the European Parliament": the words "closed lists" did not appear.

By making a stand on this constitutional principle, the hereditary peers were not unwittingly signing the death warrant to their voting rights. They know that the Prime Minister holds the pen, and that the Bill to remove them from the Upper

Chamber will be published in next week's Queen's Speech. In the light of the reaction of Tony Blair and his Cabinet to peers' sound and well-reasoned arguments, the thinking behind closed voting has come to appear all the more alarming. And instead of bolstering the Government's plans for the reform of the House of Lords, this episode has exposed their weakness.

The right of hereditary peers to vote in the second chamber cannot be defended. On this, virtually everyone — including Viscount Cranborne, the Conservative Leader in the Lords — agrees. At issue is what will replace the hereditary peers, and how a new arrangement would guarantee the second chamber's independence. Once the hereditary peers have been expelled, the second chamber will, for the time being at least, be dominated by political appointees. Rejecting charges that the Lords would then be "Mr Blair's poodle", the Government has promised a royal commission to look at further reforms. Yet the Prime Minister's attack on the House of Lords for frustrating "the will of the democratically elected House of Commons" will heighten concern that his intention is indeed as the Tories suggest: to emasculate the second chamber. The whole point of the Upper House is that it must be able to review, scrutinise, criticise and amend government legislation. Would Mr Blair allow a reformed second chamber to challenge government legislation?

In opposition, Mr Blair appeared to recognise the importance of this constitutional question. When a rebellion of Tory peers overturned a Conservative Bill, he rejoiced, claiming it was "a resounding victory for common sense". This week has seen another such victory. In taking their stand on so clear an issue of democratic principle, the Lords have acted in the public interest. Their cause remains just. They should fight on.

D'ALEMA'S DILEMMA

The Kurds must be faced down

Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the PKK (Kurdish Workers Party), is a brutal terrorist, responsible for thousands of deaths, widespread intimidation and the political deception of millions of fellow Kurds. His reported renunciation of violence in Rome this week is a transparent attempt to evade extradition to Turkey to face charges of waging a 14-year guerrilla war that has claimed more than 35,000 lives, ruined much of southeastern Turkey and led to a spiral of violence and army reprisals that have set back Kurdish autonomy for years.

His arrival in Rome has led to an immediate crisis between Italy and Turkey. Thousands of Kurds have converged on the city. Marches in other European capitals have swiftly turned to violence, and supporters have immolated themselves in public squares. Turkey, meanwhile, has erupted in fury at suggestions of asylum for a man most hold responsible for a debilitating civil war and the stunting of democratic politics. Consumers are boycotting Italian goods. Protesters have smashed up Italian businesses. Diplomatic relations between these two Nato allies may be broken.

Massimo D'Alema's Government has been taken by surprise. Nonplussed by the Turkish anger, its reaction has been as naive and inept as those European sympathisers who see in Mr Ocalan a symbol of the just struggle by Kurds against an oppressive Turkish State. Signor D'Alema's dilemma is that he can ill-afford to alienate a country as strategically vital as Turkey — which also happens to be an important Italian trading partner; but fashionable liberation ideology so blinks him and left-wing supporters to the nature of PKK atrocities that extradition would cause uproar at home as well as rioting on the streets by Kurds.

The PKK is as adept with propaganda as

it is vicious with the gun, and has long played on European sympathy for the Kurdish cause. For generations the Kurds, the largest nation without a homeland, have suffered at the hands of those governments where they live. But in Turkey they have been particularly oppressed, banned from using their language, forced into cultural assimilation, politically emasculated and denied any minority rights. The Turkey Army operations against activists are marked by unremitting brutality and torture, the wholesale burning of sympathetic villages and a police state vigilance that fans a burning hatred of Ankara's rule.

Successive Turkish Governments have tried to break this spiral, but have all been thwarted by PKK ruthlessness which has deliberately provoked the Army in keeping with the Marxist revolutionary maxim that the worse the oppression, the greater the popular support for "liberation" movements. The PKK has used drug smuggling, intimidation — especially of fellow Kurds in Germany — and the assassination of tourists to further its aims, all propounded by Mr Ocalan from his safe haven in Damascus until his recent expulsion.

Italy argues that its Constitution forbids extradition to any country enforcing the death penalty. This extrapolation of two articles — the right of asylum to anyone denied in his home country the liberties enjoyed by Italians and the banning of the death penalty in Italy — leaves little room for Mr Ocalan's return to Ankara. But it should not be manipulated to give shelter to a dangerous terrorist. Nor should it preclude sending him to Germany, where he is also wanted for murder. Bonn is loath to stir up mayhem among its two million Turks and Kurds. But political courage and ethical consistency demand that it hand an extradition request to Rome as soon as possible.

GOING, GOING, BONG

For whom Big Ben tolls

And finally... the nation mourns one of television's best-loved traditions. Last night the bongs of Big Ben tolled the death knell for ITV's *News at Ten* as one of Britain's most popular news programmes made its own headlines with the announcement that it was to be rescheduled to an early evening slot. To a fond British public, "News at Six Thirty" will never have quite the same ring.

News at Ten was launched more than 30 years ago as a flagship for ITN talent. Then, its editorial team of 19 was led by the wartime bomber pilot and former MP Aidan Crawley. But, as the years went on, this news programme stole a march on its competitors in its understanding of the value of familiarity. Its personalities grew in the public affection: Alastair Burnet, the measured voice of a pin-striped Establishment; Reginald Bosanquet, florid of feature and sagging in his seat; Sandy Gall, sandblasted and unshaven in an Afghan yurt; Michael Brunson, red-scarfed and overcoated against the chill, marching across the road from broadcast-mons on to College Green to broadcast the outcome of some crucial 10pm live. Trevor McDonald quickly became a household name, while Anna Ford proved a glamorous answer to BBC's

Angela Rippon. Her wide-eyed sincerity and satirically arched brows seduced the attention of even the most resilient male.

News at Ten will always hold a special place in television history. Its end is the end of a soap opera and the public will face it with the same sort of nostalgia felt at the putting down of some old and arthritic family pet. But it had to be done. Digital television is creating a fast-changing marketplace, and *News at Ten*, plonking itself down in the centre of the evening schedule like an old and smelly Labrador, was hobbling ITV's ability to compete. Where other channels use peak viewing times for uninterrupted film or drama, ITV was faced with a severe fall-off in viewing numbers — and, consequently, of advertising revenue — as it found itself forced to bisect its own dramas and films.

Parents, grandparents and their grandchildren, who over the years have sat down together to share on *News at Ten* the unfurling and analysis of the world's most important events, will take time to grow accustomed to a new schedule, to the bulletins which will now come at 6.30 and 11.00 pm. But the time for the last bong has come. No news at ten will in the end be good news for viewers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

The unelected in defence of free electoral choice

From Mr Nigel Bedrock

Sir, The closed-list system is seen to be unfair to some because it breaks the link between the constituents and their political representative (letters, November 17 and 18). This link is completely bogus.

We do not know the individuals on the ballot papers, we never asked them to be candidates, and when they get elected they are whipped according to party thinking. Many Members of Parliament are so keen to be re-elected as candidates that they never stray far from the party line, so we might as well vote for parties and be done with this fallacy. (Remember the Tories being shepherded into the lobbies to push through the poll tax?)

Oh yes, and if there is such a close link between me and my MP why has he/she never knocked on my door?

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL BEDROCK,
50 Hatch Road, Norbury, SW16 4PN.
nigel.bedrock@virgin.net
November 19.

selection of candidates and distribution of sham representatives. I shall abandon a lifetime's commitment to the Labour Party and work for whichever group promises to repeal it and restore personal candidates.

Political parties are at best an expedient and at worst an exorcism of democracy; they have no place in our constitution, and must not be given one.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN CALVERD,
35 Badgers, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 4ET.
November 17.

No, Sir: the issue is not hereditary-versus-life but the much more fundamental one of how all members of the Upper House should come to be there and for how long.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN THWAITES,
Milnthorpe,
Winchester SO22 4NF.
November 18.

From Mr Max Morris

Sir, How modest of Robert Evans, MEP, in his impassioned support of the closed list for the European elections (letter, November 17), not to mention that he will be number three on Labour's London list and so is virtually ensured of election by this method.

Yours etc,
MAX MORRIS,
44 Coolhurst Road, N8 8EU.
November 17.

From Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Conservative)

Sir, Peter Riddell unfairly describes the Labour list peer Lord Stoddart of Swindon as "one of the most sanctimonious and disagreeable members of either House" ("An open and shut case for getting rid of hereditary peers", November 17).

David Stoddart's many qualities include courage, tenacity, a great sense of humour and an honourable Euroscepticism. None of these may appeal to Mr Riddell, because he does not appear to share them.

Yours faithfully,
PEARSON OF RANNOCH,
House of Lords.
November 17.

From Sir Bryan Thwaites

Sir, Your leading article today, "Let the people choose", and the Chief Executive of the Electoral Reform Society (letter, November 18) are the latest to use the phrases "unelected peers" and "unelected Lords" to refer to hereditary peers. But this is merely newspeak. All peers are unelected.

Moreover, all peers are life peers in the sense that they remain members of the House until death — a practice which would be derided in every other field of public administration.

From Mr John Nicholson

Sir, Watching the unelected House of Lords exercise its privileged "right" to block the House of Commons, in the latter's undemocratic scheme to "close" voter choice in future elections, is to watch the indefensible defending itself against the indefensible.

Yours,
JOHN NICHOLSON,
58 Langdale Road,
Manchester M14 5PN.
November 19.

From Dr Alan M. Calverd

Sir, Like most adults, I do not need to be led, and like most Englishmen, I do not want to be governed. I do however need to be represented, so I campaign and vote for parliamentary candidates whose views most closely agree with mine, but use the advocacy of whoever is eventually chosen by the local electorate and sworn to serve us all. Thousands have striven and suffered to establish a Parliament in which an MP or MEP represents me and is accountable to me — even if we disagree on strategic matters. This gives legitimacy to Parliament.

Should any future election be held on a party-list system, with central

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Grammar schools

From Sir Rhodes Boyson

Sir, Your leading article, "Labour's blindspot" (November 16; see also letter, November 17), is quite right to defend the few remaining grammar schools. What is wanted in British education is more variety, not less.

In any case, we do not have comprehensive schools in Britain, we have neighbourhood schools and parents buy a better education for their children by purchasing a house near a prestigious school. Is this social justice?

Bring back the grammar schools and give the bright working-class child a real chance in life again.

Yours sincerely,
RHODES BOYSON
(Education Minister, 1979-83),
Laneham,
71 Paines Lane,
Pinner, Middlesex HA56 3BX.
November 17.

Those who seek to oust Saddam

From Mr Randhir Singh Bains

Sir, In his BBC Radio 5 Live interview (report, November 17), Robin Cook called for the removal of Saddam Hussein and said that Britain would work with the Iraqi opposition to achieve this end.

Britain is a signatory to the UN Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Internal Affairs of States and on the Protection of their Sovereignty, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 21, 1965. Under the declaration no state has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatsoever, in the internal affairs of any other state.

By attempting to oust Saddam Hussein, Britain would be violating this declaration. Robin Cook, surely, cannot expect Britain to act both as protector — the *raison d'être* of Britain's military presence in the Gulf — as well as the violator of international law.

Yours faithfully,
RANDHIR SINGH BAINS,
34 Shere Road,
Gants Hill, Essex IG2 6TG.
November 17.

There is no doubt that, given the same platform as your columnist, Saddam Hussein could equally well "justify" any of the numerous liquidations for which he is responsible with the same kind of seductive appeal to considerations of expediency and convenience.

All murder is a moral outrage and an abomination. That this requires explicit expression in your pages is itself shameful.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN J. CROCKET,
179 Maxwell Drive,
Glasgow G4 5AE.
November 17.

School inspections

From Mr Mostyn Phillips

Sir, The Chief Inspector of Schools, Chris Woodhead (letter, November 11), must know the National Union of Teachers' position, since we sent him a copy of our proposals in July 1997.

We made it clear to him that, within a balance of internal and external school evaluation, local education authorities (LEAs) should have an inspection, not just a "monitoring" role. We also argued that, to ensure impartiality, members of LEA teams would be partly made up of inspectors from other LEAs, ensuring objective inspections.

At the heart of our school evaluation proposals is the principle that those who inspect and make judgments should be those in a position to assist schools to improve — something which Ofsted inspectors are expressly forbidden to do.

Yours faithfully,
MOSTYN PHILLIPS
(Chair),
NUT Education and
Equal Opportunities Committee,
Hamilton House,
Mableton Place, WC1H 9BD.
November 4.

From Mr David Button

Sir, How might we act as judge, jury and executioner in assassinating Saddam yet still support international justice through the courts at The Hague? Michael Gove claims to argue the case for assassination of this dreadful man but surprisingly scarcely touches on the legal or moral issues of such action. If he had done so we then might have judged what other national leaders could be prudently knocked off.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BUTTON,
Little Morgrove, Perrymead,
Bath, Somerset BA2 5AZ.
November 17.

Global warming

From Mr John L. Milligan

Sir, You report today that the savings on doing one's Christmas shopping in New York more than cover the modest cost of the air fare. In the same edition, Mr K. R. Rollinson's letter points out that air travel makes the largest contribution of all means of transport per mile travelled to carbon dioxide loading of the atmosphere.

Thus although the economy of New York shopping may show up in an individual's bank balance, it does little to minimise the impact of our activities on one of the causes of global warming.

This example highlights the need for a reassessment of the cost assumptions that underpin the operation of global business. In particular, those who make decisions on transport have no reason currently to consider

the underlying environmental cost involved in the movement of people and goods around the world. In order to challenge this it will be necessary to ensure that such costs are entered into the equation.

As this is a world problem it can only really be addressed by a global, rather than national, approach. If, as a way in, nations agreed to impose a global duty on aviation fuel the cost of air travel/air freight would then better reflect its environmental costs.

The proceeds of this duty could be used to put increased resources behind research into global warming and the development of technologies to reduce the adverse impact on the environment of our travel and transport activities.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN L. MILLIGAN,
St Edith's Farmhouse,
Kensington, Kent TN15 6PT.
November 14.

From Mr Alan Shoote

Sir, I was interested to read Chris Woodhead's description of Ofsted inspections as "rigorous external inspections" providing real accountability. The reality is that the quality of inspectors varies almost as much as the quality of the schools they inspect.

The following quotation from a recent report received by me perhaps illustrates the "rigorous" nature of an inspection. It is referring to the quality of a games lesson.

In some cases, pupils' attention was not helped by the noise of passing trains and by the noise of wind in the many trees.

Whilst one could cut down every tree on a school site, to reroute a railway line, already half a mile distant, would be more difficult.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN SHOOTE
(Headteacher),
Marywood Cottage,
Crowfield, Suffolk IP6 9SZ.
November 17.

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Yours faithfully,
JOHN L. MILLIGAN,
St Edith's Farmhouse,
Kensington, Kent TN15 6PT.
November 14.

Feminine angels

From the Reverend D. M. Greenhalgh

Sir, Grammatically the Greek New Testament angel is undoubtedly masculine (Mr H. H. Huxley's letter, November 16), but in fact angels are sexless.

Confronted with the poser about the woman who had seven husbands, Jesus said that the children of the resurrection "neither marry, nor are given in marriage... for they are equal unto the angels" (Luke xx, 35-36).

Yours truly,
DAVID GREENHALGH,
3 Cricket Lawns,
Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HT.
November 16.

Ottomans besieged Constantinople the court did not notice because they were engrossed in discussing the angels' sex.

In my country this episode is often used as a metaphor to describe those whose inattention to real issues leads to disaster.

Your faithful servant,
MARIA FREMLIN,
25 Ireton Road, Colchester CO3 3AT.
mfremlin@usa.net

From Mrs Maria Fremlin

Sir, I can assure Mr Huxley that people have been puzzled by the angels' gender since at least 1453. I was brought up in Portugal on the popular belief that when the Turkish

Tread softly when visiting the Taj

From Sir Ronald Preston

Sir, In your leading article, "The tender Taj" (November 17; see also reports, same day), you recommend that, to avoid erosion, visitors should be provided with overshoes before visiting the Taj Mahal at Agra. In fact visitors are already obliged to take off their shoes at the forecourt and perambulate barefoot round the monument — a hazardous enterprise in the pouring rain on the wet and slippery white marble surface, as I discovered recently.

In general the Indian authorities are to be congratulated for the way they are preserving historical monuments, including many from the Raj. I also visited the ruins of the Residency at Lucknow, scene of the five-month siege of the British garrison and non-combatants during the troubles of 1857. The battle-scarred buildings, together with the now landscaped grounds, have been preserved exactly as they were at the end of the siege, as have the gravestones of those who fell there.

Likewise preserved is the obelisk, in another part of the town, marking the tomb of General Sir Henry Havelock, Victorian hero of the relief of Lucknow, whose statue stands on a plinth in Trafalgar Square.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD PRESTON,
68 Saxmundham Road,
Aldersburgh, Suffolk IP15 5PA.
November 17.

Spike and the Goons

From Mr S. R. Hyde

Sir, David Bradbury and Joe McGrath are right to draw attention to Spike Milligan's part in knocking the stuffiness out of postwar British society (interview, Weekend, November 14).

The Goons were universally admired by adolescents and teenagers of my generation, and plots, jokes and silly voices were rehearsed ad nauseam to the dismay of our parents and teachers. The mad humour helped us cope with life in a rather drab society where officialdom propagated pomposity.

The BBC World Service played its part in spreading this joyful message to the colonies, presumably for the benefit of British expatriates. A Ugandan Asian lad on my degree course at Portsmouth in the early 1960s said that his family had also greatly enjoyed the broadcasts. Half of them did not speak English and none of them understood the jokes, but the gales of spontaneous laughter from the studio audience delighted them. Tuning across the short-wave band in the 1950s, amid stodgy Cold War propaganda broadcasts, British humour stood out like a beacon.

Spike and his colleagues deserve our respect.

Yours, etc,
S. R. HYDE,
38 Prestbury Road,
Cheltenham GL52 2DA.
royhyde@pitvillas.freemove.co.uk
November 17.

Getting in line

From Mr Martin Harrison

Sir, Mr John Maher and Mr G. A. McKenzie are right about the queue's foreign origin (letters, November 6 and 10). According to the *Memoirs of Madame de la Tour du Pin* (Century Publishing, 1985), "queue" was the name given to a breadline formed outside a baker's shop during the Terror in revolutionary France. It seems that timid people took some pleasure in the queue, as a form of lawful assembly where they could with comparative safety talk to their neighbours.

The traditional English custom of standing around, not in line but detached from one another, may still sometimes be observed near the automatic telling machines of high street banks, no Englishman caring to be a close witness of another's financial transaction.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN HARRISON,
11 Grosvenor Hill Court,
Bourdon Street, W1X 9HT.
November 10.

Oeufs en concrete?

From Mr Eric Davies

I look forward to Della Smith explaining how to cook the surfeit of dinosaur eggs that have been discovered (report, November 18).

Yours etc,
ERIC DAVIES,
11 Heatherfield,
Buriton, Hampshire GU31 5RY.
November 18.

Legal costs

From Mr John Keevill

Sir, Three hundred pounds for a pair of trousers for the Lord Chancellor (report, November 17)? Is this another costly Labour cover-up?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN KEEVILL,
Forest Oak, Milton Road,
Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 1DD.
john@towerleasing.co.uk
November 17.

Letters to the Editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

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NEWS IN BRIEF

It's 'no' to EU tax harmony... BROWN has warned... The younger of the duo, came from a middle-class Edinburgh family...

OBITUARIES

ROBIN HALL

Robin Hall, folk singer and broadcaster, was found dead on November 18 aged 61. He was born in Edinburgh on June 27, 1937.

Robin Hall and his long-time singing partner Jimmy MacGregor were a fixture on the television screens of the 1960s, appearing five nights a week on the BBC magazine programme, Tonight... They were also known to millions as the hosts of the BBC's The White Heather Club...



Hall, left, and his long-time singing partner Jimmy MacGregor became a fixture on TV and pubs drawing on both musical strands.

In 1959 he made an album of child ballads called Last Leaves of Traditional Ballads and was invited to Vienna for the World Youth Festival. It was there that he met Jimmy MacGregor, forging a partnership that was to endure for 21 years.

MacGregor, forging a partnership that was to endure for 21 years. MacGregor was seven years older and came from a working-class Glaswegian family. He was already familiar on the London folk scene as a

singer and guitarist, and their teaming-up made perfect sense. They played under various names, including the City Ramblers and the Galliards, making two albums as the latter. They were also politically active, and Hall in particular became a familiar sight on the early Ban the Bomb marches, organised first by the Committee of One Hundred and later by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

MONICA BALY



Baly: pioneering work in the historiography of the nursing profession

Monica Baly, nurse and nursing historian, died on November 12 aged 84. She was born on May 24, 1914.

MONICA BALY had an enormous impact on the lives of generations of nurses, and on the care of their patients. Her career spanned the Second World War and the development of the National Health Service, and she then went on to become the pre-eminent historian of the nursing profession, and helped to establish an archive devoted to the subject.

Two years later she began her long career at the Royal College of Nursing as one of the earliest regional representatives. She was organiser for the Western area, which then covered almost half of England. In those early days of the NHS she was an inspiration, sharing a vision with often isolated nurses and encouraging them to see themselves as professionals. In 1960 she was secretary of the committee overseeing the amalgamation of the RCN with the National Council of Nurses.

gained a PhD from London University in 1985. Her thesis was a reevaluation of the contribution of Florence Nightingale to the profession, emphasising particularly her role as an agent for political change. As well as returning to primary sources, Baly brought a proper academic rigour to nursing studies, basing her historical investigations on a deep understanding of the period about which she was writing. She persuaded the general secretary of the Royal College to set up an archive, with a full-time archivist, and herself founded its History of Nursing Group. She wrote a number of influential studies herself, including Nursing and Social Change (1973), third edition, 1995) and Florence Nightingale and the Nursing Legacy (1983). She was working on a new history of the Middlesex Hospital at the time of her death.

SIR ASHER JOEL

Sir Asher Joel, KBE, AO, politician and public relations consultant, died on November 9 aged 86. He was born on May 4, 1912.

ASHER JOEL rose from poverty in a Sydney suburb to become a politician, a prominent businessman and, most notably, Australia's trailblazing public relations consultant. A specialist in organising grand occasions, he was honoured by the Queen after his two biggest projects—the 1970 Captain Cook Bicentenary celebrations, when he was knighted, and in 1974 when he was appointed KBE after the ceremonial opening of the Sydney Opera House.

Joel was the organising skill behind other national events, including the visits to Australia of President Lyndon Johnson and Pope Paul VI, the latter recognised by a papal knighthood.

well-received historical novel about the struggle for independence in the Philippines. Asher Joel was the son of Harry Joel, whose Central European Jewish family migrated to Australia via England just after the turn of the century. He left Cleveland Street High School at 14 to begin work as a copyboy on the Sydney Daily Telegraph, where lack of educational qualifications meant that he won his journalistic cadetship only by proving his potential by filing copy for a crime reporter missing on a drinking spree.

He joined the Australian Imperial Forces in 1942, transferring to the Royal Australian Navy, and serving in 1944-45 as a liaison officer with General Douglas MacArthur, the Allied Commander in the Southwest Pacific. Back in Sydney, Joel founded the country's first public relations consultancy, which was considered exotic in the unsophisticated Australia of the day. He worked at first for the Liberal Party in Victoria, but he was a Sydney man at heart and returned to his home city to handle accounts ranging from the New South Wales Troutling Club to the margarine industry.

He was happy in Sydney's clubland, belonging to the American and Journalists' Clubs, the Australasian Pioneers, and the Royal Agricultural Society, as well as the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron. Despite the stirrings of republicanism, Joel's definitive Australian Protocol and Procedures (1982) ran to a surprising second edition in 1988. He was appointed OBE in 1956, knighted in 1971, and advanced to KBE in 1974; he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 1986. His first marriage was dissolved in 1948; he is survived by his second wife, Sybil, and by three sons and a daughter.

GEOFFREY AINSWORTH

Geoffrey Ainsworth, mycologist, died on October 25 aged 93. He was born on October 9, 1905.

FUNGI affect our lives in secretive but vital ways: as agents of plant and human diseases, of spoilage and decay, as food, sources of industrial chemicals and pharmaceuticals, and in the production of alcoholic beverages and bread. They also encourage tree growth, and are critical to nutrient recycling in nature. Few scientists have endeavoured to embrace the subject's diversity and to create order across the discipline, but Geoffrey Ainsworth charted it in a series of reference works.



Geoffrey Ainsworth helped to chart the field of mycology

in 1934, and prepared his first book, The Plant Diseases of Great Britain (1937). Preparation of this meticulous compilation brought him into contact with the Imperial (later Commonwealth, and then International) Mycological Institute at Kew, which he first visited in 1932, joining its staff as an assistant in 1939-45. Interludes during air raid alerts included hot drinks with the Liberal Party leader Jo Grimmond on nearby Kew Green, and composing derisive letters about the staff—a levity disapproved of by his director. But Ainsworth was never one to waste a moment, so he and his fire-watching partner Guy Bisby spent their nights going through the institute's library completing index cards. Special dispensation to use paper was obtained, and their work was issued as the Dictionary of the Fungi (1943). This was one of the first scientific works written in C. K. Ogden's Basic English. Ogden took an interest, and the first copy was presented to Winston Churchill, who had established a Cabinet committee on Basic

English and had appealed for his wider use. This vade mecum of mycologists is now in an eighth edition (1995), with 20,000 entries. With the rise of interest in antibiotics after the discovery of penicillin, Ainsworth was able to escape the poverty-trap that was the institute's pay structure by moving to head the mycological department at Wellcome's Laboratories in 1946. He doubled his salary, and widened his interests to include medical and veterinary mycology. As a Wellcome research fellow at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 1947-48 he surveyed the diseases of humans and animals in Britain. Medical mycology became a passion, and he produced books on Medical Mycology (1952) and Fungal Diseases of Animals (with P. C. Austwick, 1959), and formed the British Society for Mycopathology. He continued these interests—as well as the naming of micro-organisms and plant pathogens—as a lecturer and then reader at the University of Exeter from 1948 to 1957.

He then returned to the Mycological Institute, rising to be Director for four years before retiring in 1968. He was an ardent campaigner for more money, and sometimes had to threaten resignation to secure additional staff and microscopes. Some of his most significant projects were embarked upon or completed in retirement. The Fungi: An Advanced Treatise, which he edited in five volumes (1965-73) with A. S. Sussman and F. K. Sparrow, is the most ambitious work on fungi this century. Yet his scholarship reached its zenith in the Introduction to the History of Mycology (1976), An Introduction to the History of Plant Pathology (1981) and An Introduction to the History of Medical Mycology (1986) followed, but he declined to pen a companion on industrial mycology because too much was secreted in company archives. His last book, Brief Biographies of British Mycologists (1996), was issued for the centenary of the British Mycological Society (of which he was president in 1950). His awards and honours include an honorary presidency of the International Mycological Association in 1977, the Limeau Medal for Botany in 1980, and the Lucille K. Georg Medal of the International Society for Human and Animal Mycology in 1982 and 1997. The naming of a new laboratory block, the Ainsworth Building, recognised his contribution to the institute when it relocated from Kew to Egham in 1992. A Quaker and always a socialist at heart, he married Frances Hilda Bryan in 1931. She and their two daughters survive him.

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RACKETEERS IN NEW YORK

New York, Nov. 19. About 50 leading citizens of New York, including outstanding business men, lawyers, Government officials, and ecclesiastics, have been summoned to meet tomorrow afternoon in conference to consider ways and means for dealing with "racketeering" in this city, which, according to Mr Thomas Crain, the District Attorney, has reached the dimensions of a public terror. Among those invited to the conference are Mr John D Rockefeller, Junior, Mr Henry W Taft, President of the New York County Lawyers' Association; and Mr John Sullivan, President of the New York State Federation of Labour.

ON THIS DAY

November 20, 1930. In 1930 it was claimed that the activities of racketeering gangs in New York had reached the dimensions of a public terror. The Hotel Montefiore, "racketeering" gangs in New York have shot and killed one person every day. The total number of shootings during the period was 89, of which 35 were fatal. Some of those shot by "racketeers" were rival "racketeers" and others were victims of extortion who refused to submit. As usual the highly profitable and therefore dangerous "slot machine racket" is responsible for a number of deaths. Several people were shot as the result of quarrels over markets for grapejuice to be turned into wine. One man, who had engaged in many other illegal businesses, was finally shot by rivals when he attempted to enter the "miniature golf racket".

NEWS

Labour gives power to its members

Tony Blair is planning to carry on his Labour Party revolution with a package of internal changes designed to attract more members and curb the last power bastions of the old Left.

Having given his party a new constitution through the scrapping of Clause 4 and downgrading the annual conference, the Prime Minister now intends to grant far more power over policy to ordinary party members.

News at Ten to go

The Independent Television Commission signed the death warrant of News at Ten, after more than 30 years on air. The decision by a seven to three majority of the 10 members of the commercial broadcasting regulator flew in the face of opposition from politicians and viewers.

Doomed turkeys

The traditional farm-fresh turkey, with gently rotting innards still intact, may be seen in butchers' windows for the last time this Christmas, under Ministry of Agriculture plans.

Sacred shirt

A sacred shirt worn by an American Indian warrior thought to have died at the massacre of Wounded Knee is to be returned to the Lakota Sioux.

30-year riddle

Relatives of people killed in an Irish aircraft 30 years ago have begun legal action to decide if the aircraft was shot down by a British missile.

Paganism warning

The English countryside will quickly return to paganism if the Church of England withdraws from remote villages, the Bishop of Lincoln told the General Synod.

Trade war

A Turkish boycott of Italian goods began to bite as industrialists said they feared the row between Rome and Ankara over a Kurdish leader would damage trade.

Long range scandal

President Clinton, who might have thought he had left the Lewinsky scandal at home, was confronted over the affair by a Japanese housewife.

Israeli pullout

An obstacle to the first Israeli troop withdrawal from the West Bank in nearly two years was removed when the Cabinet approved the first stage of the peace pact.

Starr scrutiny

Kenneth Starr, President Clinton's tormentor for the past four years, became the subject of an inquisition himself as the third impeachment hearings in American history opened amid bitterness and rancour.

League tables

Ministers bowed to a chorus of criticism from head teachers and dropped a controversial new measure of teenagers' progress from league tables.

End of aria

The fat lady was denied her chance to sing in the High Court when the majestically proportioned soprano, Jessye Norman, lost her bid to sue for libel over a quip about her size.

Drugs alert

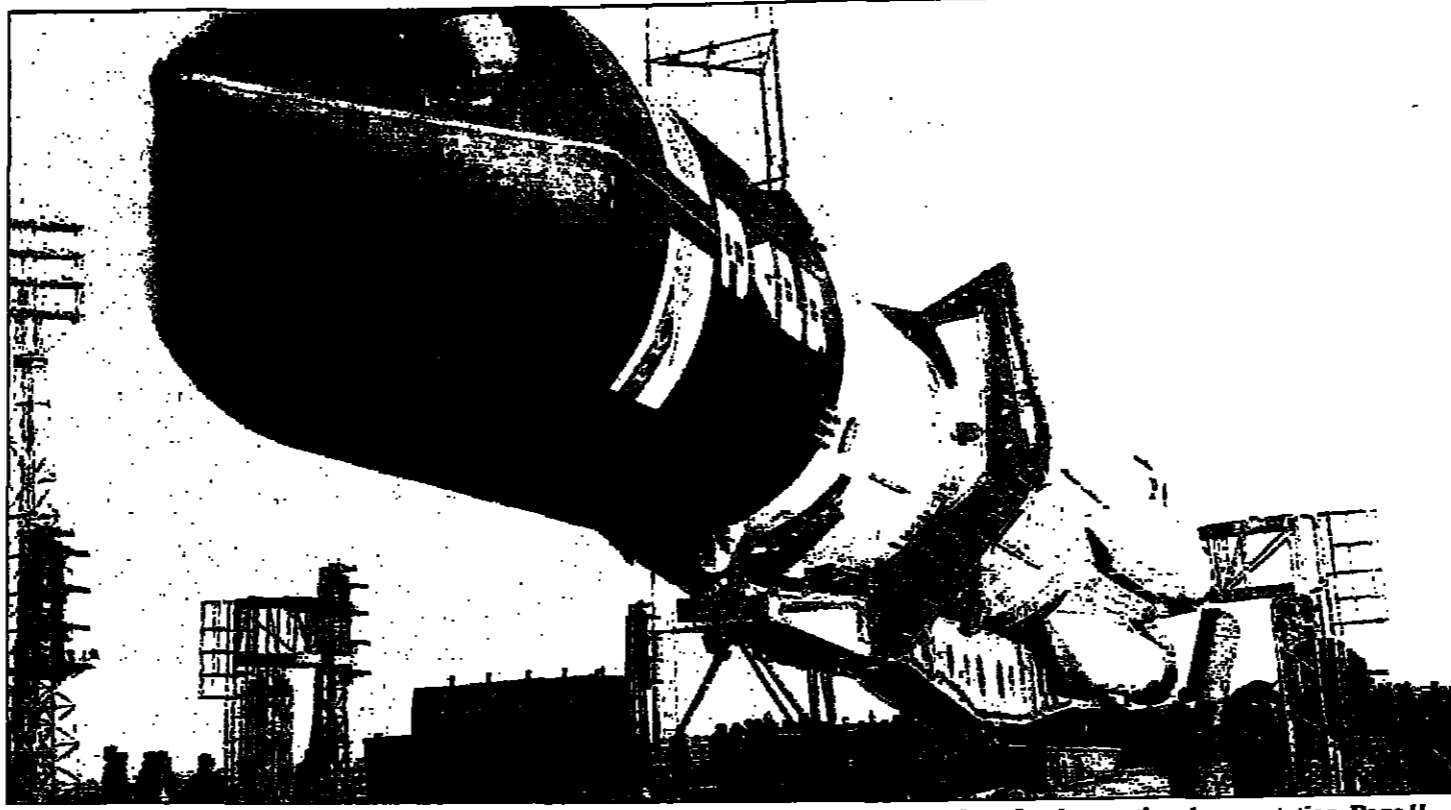
Police issued a national warning to drug users to beware of dealers selling two Ecstasy substitutes that can kill.

Hague says 'no'

William Hague raised the stakes in the confrontation between the Commons and the Lords by refusing to co-operate over the European Elections Bill.

Putting Saddam in the picture

Saddam Hussein is a man of many talents: a loving family man, concerned social worker, welder, Kurdish chief, general, pilot, architect and blokish buddy of the masses. We know this because the Iraqi autocrat has an army of portrait painters who capture every pose imaginable and some that are beyond comprehension.



The Russian booster rocket Proton ready for today's launch in Kazakhstan of the first section of an international space station. Page 11

BUSINESS

Euro bourses: Plans by London and Frankfurt to create a pan-European stock market gained a significant endorsement when Paris dropped plans to create a rival alliance.

School bus cartel: Stagecoach has been implicated in a secret agreement to rig the school bus market in Kingston upon Hull, whose MP John Prescott is the minister responsible for transport.

Storehouse fall: Shares fell to a six-year low after the retail group gave warning of a downturn in trading.

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 132.2 to 5606.2. The pound fell 52 cents to \$1.6681 and rose 1.11 pleming to DM2.8017, the index rising to 100.8 from 100.7.

SPORT

Cricket: Mark Taylor, who plays his 100th Test for Australia in the opening match of the Ashes series against England, can reflect affectionately on a week in Birmingham last June.

Football: There was a glimmer of light for England, and a smile on Glenn Hoddle's face, after their 2-0 win over the Czech Republic at Wembley.

Rugby union: An unchanged XV will do duty for England in their World Cup qualifying match against Italy, who are expected to play a physical game.

Racing: Jamie Osborne, the National Hunt jockey, was told that he faces no charges and has been eliminated from all police inquiries into race fixing and doping.

ARTS

Fishy tale: 'You don't have to be mad to be an artist but a little endearing quirkiness never did any harm' - Richard Morrison on history being made in Grimsby.

Pop 1: Natalie Imbruglia live at the Forum, Caitlin Moran on the perils of the after-show pop party and Roddy Frame's setting for a gig - the Outer Hebrides.

Pop 2: David Sinclair reviews Bruce Springsteen's 4-CD set and the rest of the week's pop albums; plus jazz and soul CDs, and blues virtuoso Eric Bibb.

Little Ewan: The latest star to earn his laurels on the London stage is Ewan McGregor, in Little Malcolm and His Struggle Against the Eunuchs at Hampstead.

FEATURES

Jane Shilling: 'Here comes the party season ... all I need now is the right dress' - Page 22

Rising star: She looks somehow familiar and that's because Natascha McElhone is an understated Londoner who has acted with a Who's Who of Hollywood stars - Page 23

Crisis talks: Has the crisis between newspapers and the Premier League solved - or has it just been delayed? - Page 43

Spin-search: Tories embark on a search for their own Alastair Campbell - Page 43

Table talk: How two girls' schools keep ahead in the league tables - Page 48

The decision by US Vice President Al Gore to lambaste Malaysia at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum was a mistake. It is not that Mr Gore's message was off the mark - US concern over political developments in Malaysia is shared by other APEC members. Nor should such criticisms go unheeded. Rather, the way and place that the rebuke was delivered threatens to distract and divide Apec just when focus and cooperation is needed most - Japan Times



TOMORROW IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

RE-BORN IN THE USA Bruce Springsteen retraces his tracks

GRUB'S UP Jonathan Meades on the English way of food



OPINION

Lords and people The Lords have acted in the public interest. Their cause remains just. They should fight on - Page 25

D'Alema's dilemma Political courage and ethical consistency demand that Bonn hand an extradition request to Rome as soon as possible - Page 25

Going, going, bong No news at ten will in the end be good news for viewers - Page 25

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS Small towns have no champions. Their streets decay with cut-price stores or are torn apart for crude mini-halls, frantic to compete with hypermarkets. They either retain traffic in the hope of passing trade, or exclude it in the hope of pedestrian uplift - Page 24

MARY ANN SIEGHART Tony Blair is in danger of being seduced by EMU for reasons that are less to do with economics and more to do with political strategy, not just overseas but also at home - Page 24

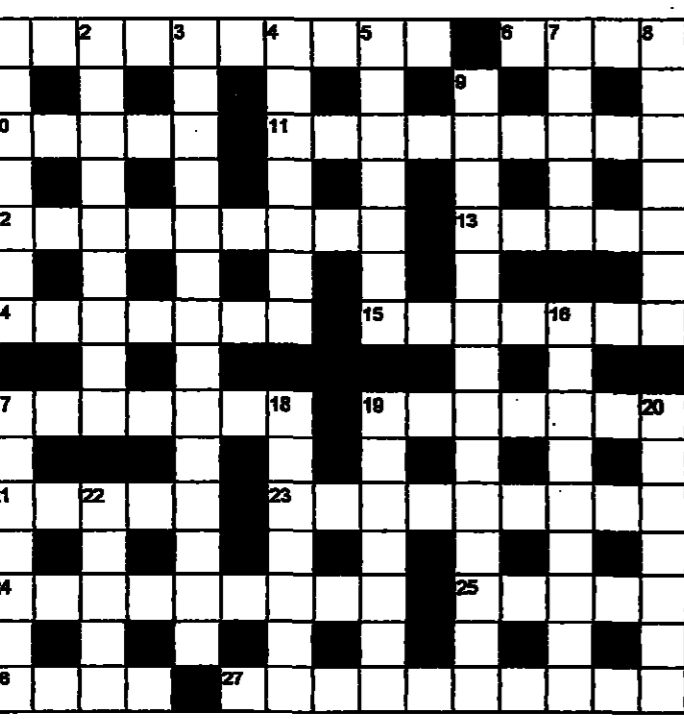
PHILIP HOWARD Accordingly the People's High Priest, Tony Blair, summoned the Assembly of the People by blowing upon all the silver pagers and Anaphones made of rams' horns at Millbank Tower - Page 24

PETER RIDDELL William Hague is playing adolescent politics. He and his advisers quickly need to learn some constitutional history, rather than seek the cheers of Tory MPs - Page 12

LETTERS Voter choice: Taj Mahal; Saddam; grammar schools; postwar humour; school inspections; global warming; queues; angels - Page 25

2, 8, 12, 30, 35, 47 Bonus: 39 The total jackpot was £42 m

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,954



ACROSS
1 French settlement - New Caledonia (4,6)
6 Those leading boys up rocky paths get the wind up (4)
10 Part of joint to which musical group refers (5)
11 Military officer treated after duel (9)
12 Retired surgeon affected by skin problem (9)
13 Pick a light colour (5)
14 Province of Orthodox Church a cypher represented (7)
15 Writer turned into fat cat (7)
17 Herb runs into base after church (7)
19 Unfashionable US city was captivated of criminals (7)
21 Shiny black metal from Italian city (5)
23 Part scoundrel out to lunch passed to left (9)
24 Old whisper circulating about new possession (9)
25 Put out to graze many head of Hereford here? (5)
26 Trained soldiers manoeuvre on the banks (4)
27 Lonely wife takes drug with champagne (5,5)
DOWN
1 Worthy, but incompetent (7)
2 See show and defend against critics (9)
3 Ignored ecstatic politician going round so-called Garden (4,2,8)
4 Well-behaved worker in hospital (7)
5 One stupid to lend, if not in good faith? (7)
7 Free advertising's beginning to be eliminated from BBC (5)
8 Solid girl in the swim, coming to the top (7)
9 Living further - the attraction of having skill with gun (5,2,3,4)
16 Profligate accepted in a gang (9)
17 Cover for vehicle parking, or another vehicle put outside (7)
18 Sudden movement, followed by hesitation, makes greyhound cross (7)
19 Cop-outs amended in big organisation (7)
20 One way or another, put facade round 'ouse (7)
22 Rancour displayed by somebody in powerboat that's capsized (5)
Solution to Puzzle No 20,953
REBLOODED SHED
STRATEGY ONLINE
CRUSOE IDEALISM
M B L F G S T A
PISA FAHRENHEIT
CARDIOGRAM PALL
T T O A N Y
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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7:27 am Sun sets: 4:05 pm
Moon sets: 5:24 pm Moon rises: 8:15 am
First quarter November 27
London 4:05 pm to 7:28 am
Bristol 4:15 pm to 7:36 am
Edinburgh 3:59 pm to 8:01 am
Manchester 4:05 pm to 7:45 am
Perthshire 4:32 pm to 7:44 am



FORECAST

General: some sun in S and E England after early frost and fog but chilly. Milder in N and W but light rain possible, preceded by wet snow over northern parts. Scotland drizzly with sleet, heavier rain will set in over N Ireland and W Scotland; the wind will strengthen. Tonight the E and SE dry and frosty with fog patches. Milder with rain in the W and N.
London, SE Eng, E Ang, Cent S Eng, E Mid, E Eng, Chann: locally frosty. Fog patches, some weak sun. Light SE wind. Max 7C (45F).
W Mid, Cent N Eng, NE Eng: local frost and mist. Bright but light rain later. Wet snow over peaks soon turning to rain. Moderate S to SE wind. Max 7C (44F).
SW Eng, S Wales: occasional light rain or drizzle in west, dry to east after mist and frost. Moderate S to SE wind. Max 9C (48F).
N Wales, NW Eng, Lake Dist: mostly cloudy, some light rain. Wet snow at first over the peaks, soon turning to rain. Moderate S wind. Max 8C (46F).
Ile of Man, N Ire: becoming wet and windy but milder. Fresh to strong S winds setting. Max 12C (52F).
Borders, Edin & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: light rain or drizzle spreading east mid or fog. Strong S winds, locally gale force later. Max 10C (50F).
NE Scot, Orkney, Shetland: light rain or drizzle, becoming steeper and heavier. Windy freshening S wind. Max 11C (52F).
SW Scot, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, NW Scot: rain spreading east, turning heavier. Snow over the peaks soon turning to rain. Strong S winds, locally gale force later. Max 10C (50F).
Irish Rep: mostly cloudy, perhaps rain in west. Freshening S wind. Max 11C (52F).
Outlook: cold, frosty in south and east; milder, windy and rainy in north and west.

AROUND BRITAIN

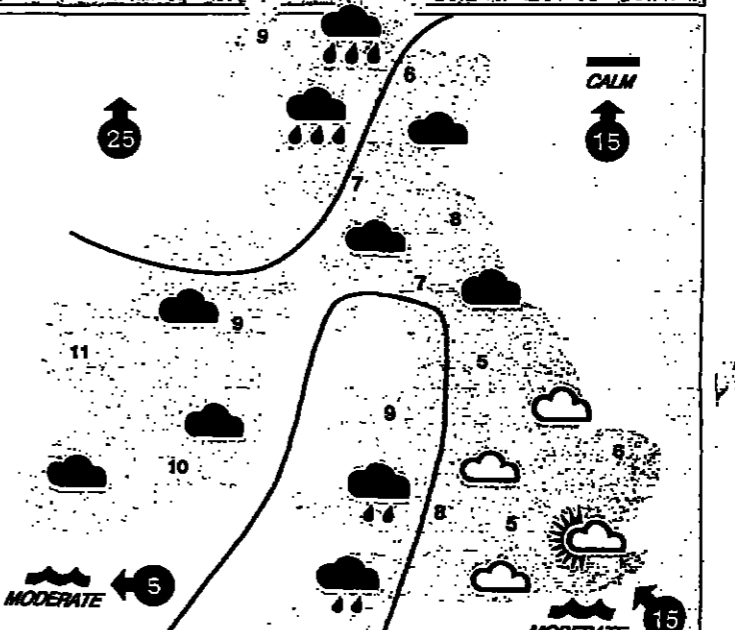
Table with columns for location, Sun, Rain, Max, Min, and other weather indicators for various British locations.

ABROAD

Table with columns for location, Sun, Rain, Max, Min, and other weather indicators for various international locations.

Temperatures at midday local time on Wednesday. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: high A to retreat west and build; high B to move east, building; low E to edge northeast and fill; low M to fill and move northeast

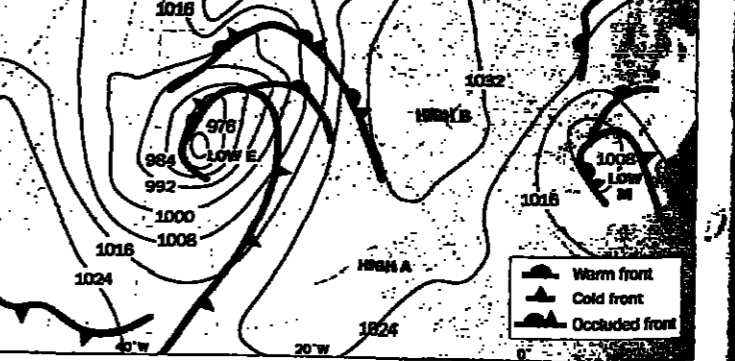
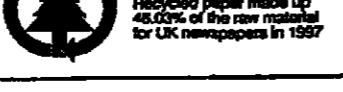


Table with columns for location, AM, HT, PM, HT, TODAY, AM, HT, PM, HT, showing temperature and weather data for various locations.

HIGHEST & LOWEST
Yesterday's highest day temp: Bournemouth, 11C (52F); lowest day max: Buxton, Derbyshire, 4C (39F)
Highest rainfall: Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, 0.5in; highest sunshine: Cleethorpe, 6.8h. NB Unavailable because of communication problems.



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Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the text 'Paris t' and 'OFF Stage price' and 'Opera profits'.

THE TIMES

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



BUSINESS The West loosens purse strings for world's poor PAGE 33



ARTS Bin there, done that: Stomp dance back into London PAGES 39-42



SPORT Taylor leads out Australia with a century to his name PAGES 50-56

TELEVISION AND RADIO Pages 54, 55

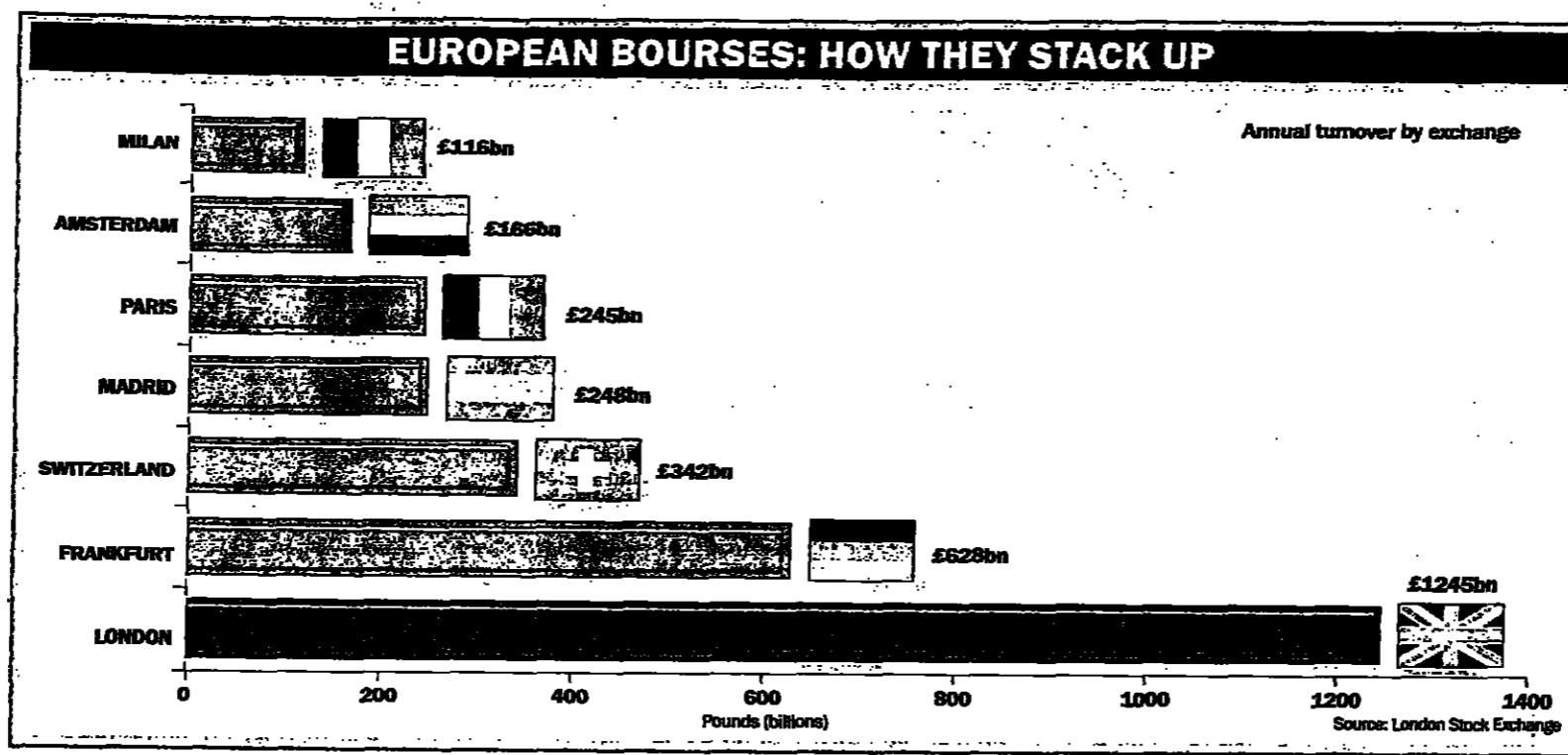
BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20 1998

Paris to join Europe alliance

By Paul Durman

PLANS by London and Frankfurt to create a pan-European stock market moved a step closer yesterday when Paris dropped plans to create a rival alliance and applied to join the other two bourses.



ing on plans that will give their member firms equal access to both markets from January.

nd-class passenger, while Le Monde wrote an editorial on "Bourse betrayal".

tions. We might have had some harsh comments [because the London-Frankfurt initiative] did not fit the picture of a truly open, pan-European exchange.

member, said: "Between the idea and the realisation there is a very long way."

said the European Central Securities Depositories Association had already spent 18 months working on how best to link the various settlement systems.

Bhs fall deepens retailers' gloom

By Robert Cole, City Correspondent

SHARES of Storehouse fell to a six-year low yesterday when the Bhs and Mothercare retailing group delivered a grim assessment of current high street trading and gave warning that its profits were set to fall.

OFT accuses Stagecoach of price fixing

By Carl Mortished

STAGECOACH has been implicated in a secret agreement to rig the school bus market in Hull, where the local MP is John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister and the Cabinet Minister responsible for transport.

Eurotunnel study may get it out of a hole

By Jason Nisse

WHAT do you do if the Government asks you to build something you do not want to build? If you are Eurotunnel, the answer is: hire consultants to do a "feasibility study".

Ecclestone hits Formula One TV barrier

By Jason Nisse

MAX MOSLEY, president of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile, the governing body of world motor sport, yesterday said he expected the European Commission to make a concerted attempt to unwind deals struck between the FIA and Bernie Ecclestone's Formula One Group over the rights to televise the sport.

Rate cut hopes boost markets

By Carl Mortished

THE FTSE 100 index closed 132.2 points higher at 5606.2 yesterday as hopes of interest rates cuts and heavy institutional buying bolstered the market.

Rate cut hopes boost markets

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Sega profits zapped by turmoil in Japan



Shoichiro Irimajiri, president of Sega, introduces the company's new Dreamcast console

SEGA ENTERPRISES, the Japanese video games giant, yesterday discovered that the computer games industry could be just as grisly as the ultra-violent products it spawns.

such as Grand Theft Auto and Tomb Raider. In spite of its problems, Sega said it was confident that its new 128-bit, internet-capable Dreamcast console would boost its performance.

ive Y1 dividend to celebrate the launch of the new product, in addition to a Y15 dividend, the amount the company paid last year.

Advertisement for Charles Tyrwhitt shirts. Includes text: 'CHARLES TYRWHITT', 'INTRODUCTORY OFFER', '100% Two-fold cotton poplin shirts for ladies & gentlemen', 'Usually £40 - reduced to £32 - 20% off'. Features an image of a shirt with various callouts like 'Reasonable brass collar stiffeners', 'Two-piece collar and single yoke', '100% pure, two-fold cotton poplin', etc.

BUSINESS TODAY

Table of financial data including Stock Market Indices (FTSE 100, FTSE All Share, New York Dow Jones, S&P Composite), US Rates (Federal Funds, Long bond, Yield), London Money (3-month interbank, 6-month interbank, 12-month interbank), and Sterling (New York, London, DM, FF, SF, Yen, £ index).

Vertical text on the left margin including 'RADIO & TV', 'OPINION', 'Lords and people', 'D'Alema's dilemma', 'Going, going, bong', 'COLUMNS', 'SIMON JENKINS', 'MARY ANN SIEGHART', 'PHILIP HOWARD', 'PETER ROSE', 'LETTERS', 'AFTER NUMBERS', 'SPORT', 'TELEVISION AND RADIO', 'BUSINESS TODAY', 'STOCK MARKET INDICES', 'US RATES', 'LONDON MONEY', 'STERLING', 'NORTH SEA OIL', 'Rate cut hopes boost markets', 'Commentary, page 31', 'Commentary, page 32', 'Commentary, page 33', 'Commentary, page 39', 'Commentary, page 42', 'Commentary, page 54', 'Commentary, page 55'.

Sterling resumes payout

Sterling Publishing Group, the publisher of *Debut*, is resuming dividend payments after returning to profit in the half year to September 30. Interim profits were £1.05 million, compared with losses of £5.24 million in the first half of the previous year. Earnings were 0.77p a share, compared with losses of 12.61p. The interim dividend is 0.2p. The company ended the period with net cash of £1.09 million.

Roxboro purchase
Roxboro, the controls technology group, is expanding in the US with the \$7.8 million (£4.7 million) acquisition of Norwich Aero Products, a supplier of temperature sensors primarily for the aero-engine market. The business will operate beside Weston Aerospace, Roxboro's UK subsidiary.

Bradford falls
Bradford Property Trust, the residential landlord, reported a fall in pre-tax profits to £15.7 million from £16.3 million for the six months to October 5. Earnings were 7.36p a share, compared with 7.64p previously. The interim dividend rises to 4.4p a share from 4.1p.

C&WC acquisitions
Cable & Wireless Communications has acquired two Irish telephony businesses, Cable & Wireless Ltd and Cable & Wireless Services, from Cable & Wireless, its parent, as part of a £30 million investment programme.

TOURIST RATES	
Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.66
Austria Sch	20.73
Belgium F	61.01
Canada \$	2.700
China Cpt & P	0.8726
Denmark Kr	11.25
Egypt	5.88
Finland Mk	9.07
France F	9.87
Germany Dm	2.986
Greece Dr	488
Hong Kong \$	13.74
Iceland	128
Indonesia	16,429
Ireland P	1.1820
Israel Sh	7.28
Italy Lit	2048
Japan Yen	213.29
Malta	0.663
Netherlands Gld	3.592
New Zealand \$	3.21
Norway Kr	13.07
Portugal Esc	300.19
S Africa Rd	10.07
Spain Ptas	249.92
Sweden Kr	14.20
Switzerland Fr	2.486
Turkey Lira	508.60
USA \$	1.775

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Geoffrey Maddrell samples the product of Glenmorangie, the whisky distiller, which is focusing on higher-margin cased sales

Buoyant bank lending eases credit crunch fears

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BANK lending remained unexpectedly buoyant in October raising hopes that the economy can avoid a credit crunch and stay on course for a "soft landing". However, economists dismissed fears that the continued strength of lending will force a delay in rate cuts, pointing to evidence that consumer appetite for borrowing is beginning to wane and a jump in building society savings inflows.

data from the British Bankers' Association that showed bank lending increased by £5.83 billion in October, compared with the recent monthly average of £3.1 billion. Lending to the corporate sector was especially robust at £1.5 billion against a six month average of £600 million. Tim Sweeney, director-general of the BBA, said manufacturers, property companies, wholesalers and retailers were the biggest borrowers in October. Economists said it suggested that sectors that are feeling the economic slowdown are turning to credit to see them through the downturn. Richard Illey, UK economist

at ABN-Amro, said: "These data suggest there is little danger of a credit crunch. The sustained buoyancy points to a 'soft landing' for the economy and gently falling interest rates." Lending to the personal sector, however, slipped back with consumer credit rising by £458 million in October — the smallest increase in nearly six months. Net mortgage lending also eased lower to £891 million, compared with £978 million in September, while overall personal lending slipped from £1.51 billion to £1.37 billion. Separate data from the Building Societies Association also showed a flat housing

market with net new mortgage advances falling from £784 million to £767 million. However, savings inflows jumped sharply to record their largest growth this year at £1.2 billion compared with £871 million in September. Pay rises in the engineering sector have fallen sharply with the highest number of wage freezes reported in more than three years, according to data published today. Average pay rises have slipped from 3.4 per cent to 3.2 per cent in the three months to October while 10 per cent of companies are freezing wages, according to the latest Engineering Employers Federation pay bulletin.

Hope for arms site

By ADAM JONES

THE threatened closure of the Royal Ordnance munitions factory at Bishopston, near Glasgow, may be averted if the Ministry of Defence spends £10 million more. The 500-employee factory is understood to have lost out on a crucial contract, worth about £100 million, to supply gun propellant to the Armed Forces.

Denel, of South Africa, is assumed to have won the order. British Aerospace, Royal Ordnance's parent, is negotiating with the MoD and Denel to get some of the work subcontracted to Bishopston, keeping it open for a while at least. Denel is understood to want £10 million added to the contract cost for it to co-operate.

IN Business life TOMORROW Will continental companies become the big cheeses of British food retailing?

Interim slip as distiller reshapes its strategy

By DOMINIC WALSH

GLENMORANGIE, the whisky distiller, is banking on a strong Christmas to offset a 27 per cent fall in first-half profits. Its decision to cut back sharply on bulk whisky sales in order to focus on higher-margin cased sales of its main brands meant that pre-tax profits fell from £4.57 million to £3.33 million in the half year to September 30, on turnover 7 per cent lower at £21.1 million. Earnings per "A" share fell to 17.32p (23.42p), but the interim dividend is being raised to 3.5p (3.25p).

Geoffrey Maddrell, chairman, said that the profits decrease had been planned and bulk sales now accounted for just 5 per cent of group sales, against 40 per cent previously. Conversely, malt volumes were up 10 per cent in the half year, and in the run-up to Christmas the company is spending £1 million on television and radio advertising. Mr Maddrell said that the group was keen to strengthen its brand portfolio and had "several irons in the fire". He said smaller acquisitions, such as last year's £7 million purchase of the Ardberg distillery from Allied Domecq, could be funded from borrowings, adding: "Should we at any point need to use equity, we would then have to address the issue of 'A' and 'B' shares."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

News Corp wins £28m card ruling

THE NEWS CORPORATION has won a £28 million High Court judgment against perpetrators of a scam in which it was overcharged for supply of "smartcards" issued to Sky TV subscribers. The case — brought by five companies, led by News International, the News Corp subsidiary that owns *The Times* and 40 per cent of BSKYB — was principally against Michael Clinger, a director of News Data Security Products, partly owned by News Corp. He was found to have systematically overcharged for millions of cards needed by Sky viewers to activate their decoders in the late 1980s and early 1990s. In a complex, 173-page ruling, Mr Justice Lindsay entered judgment against Israel-based Mr Clinger for the £20.8 million overcharged, plus about £8 million interest. Judgment was also given against Michael Luzann, an associate of Mr Clinger. The defendants were ordered to pay legal costs unofficially estimated at more than £2 million.

Norcros building

NORCROS, the building products and speciality chemicals company, lifted underlying pre-tax profits 9.7 per cent to £6.8 million in the half year to September 30. Adjusted earnings rose 10.7 per cent to 3.1p a share and the interim dividend is increased to 1.2p a share from 1.1p. There was an exceptional loss of £5.6 million on the £13.7 million disposal of the Norprint businesses during the year, reducing actual pre-tax profits to £1.2 million from £6.2 million in the previous first half.

Cedar remains upbeat

CEDAR GROUP, the computer supply firm, expects "satisfactory" results for the full year despite a poor performance in the half to September 30. The interim performance showed a loss of £300,000, compared with a profit of £1.1 million last time. With turnover up 36 per cent, at £7.2 million, the company said "the underlying trend was strongly upwards". Losses per share were 1.9p, but the dividend is unchanged at 0.8p.

Insurer's UK chief

SUN LIFE OF CANADA has appointed Steve Melcher, formerly of Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star, as senior vice-president and general manager of its UK operations. He succeeds Maurice Bates, who resigned in August after 18 months in the job. The life insurer also said up to 3,000 UK policyholders with lapsed policies could benefit from windfalls worth an estimated £2,000 each when it demutualises next year.

FSA appoints four

THE Financial Services Authority yesterday announced four appointments to its Board. Moira Black, formerly a partner at Price Waterhouse, Gillian Nott, chief executive of ProShare (UK), Shamit Sagar, a lecturer in government at Queen Mary & Westfield College, University of London, and Keith Whitson, group chief executive of HSBC Holdings, have been appointed non-executive directors for three-year terms.

Growth at Tomkinsons

TOMKINSONS, which makes and sells carpets, yarn and floorcoverings, bucked the trend of gloomy results for home furnishing retailers and announced its fourth successive year of growth. Pre-tax profits for the year to October 3 were 17 per cent higher at £2 million. Turnover was up 11 per cent at £30.5 million, with UK sales up 15 per cent. Earnings per share were 21.4p (17.8p) and the dividend is unchanged at 11.5p.

Profits fall at Lambert Fenchurch

LAMBERT FENCHURCH, the insurance broker, saw first-half pre-tax profits fall to £1.2 million, from £7.1 million last time. It blamed increased investment and £2.9 million in exceptional restructuring costs (Marianne Curphy writes). Earnings per share fell to 0.7p (5.4p). The interim dividend is cut to 1.45p (2.9p). The shares fell 4p to 85½p. Bernard Myers, chairman, said the company's markets remain difficult, with excess capital and underwriting capacity leading to rating reductions in all classes of business.

Mike Mike

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مكتبة من الأصل

Question of MPC make-up is now purely academic

THE Bank of England's bold half-point cut in rates earlier this month has temporarily taken some of the heat off the Monetary Policy Committee. The revelation that William Butler, once regarded as the most hawkish member of the committee, has continued his attempt at industrial canonisation by voting for a 0.75 per cent cut has even created a new MPC hero for business and the unions to champion. Yet the clamour to change the make-up of the committee will resume should the Bank opt to hold rates steady.

The unions have been most vociferous in their criticism of the MPC membership. Ideally, of course, they would like to see a union official have the chance to argue for jobs over inflation, but not even the most die-hard general secretary believes beer and sandwiches will ever take pride of place in Threadneedle Street.

The business organisations have been a touch more guarded in their attacks, although there is no doubt that there is

solid industry support for more MPC members with real business experience. As far as business is concerned, it is no coincidence that until Mr Butler's Pauline conversion, DeAnne Julius — the former chief economist at British Airways — was the sole MPC member consistently in tune with industry thinking. The case for a "Julius mark two" has only been heightened by the fact that, for the moment at least, she appears to have been largely correct in her interest rate judgments.

On the surface, the call for more industry members of the MPC represents a typical British anti-intellectualism, a feeling that the largely academic membership of the committee means the Bank is out of touch with the "real world". Underlying this argument is an unspoken theoretical assumption that business economists will be instinctively more sensitive to growth than the inflation obsessives from academia and, to a certain extent, the City.

There is probably some truth to this

THE BUSINESS OF POLITICS



ALASDAIR MURRAY

claim. Business economists are more attuned to the needs of the industry and are often able to pick up trends more quickly because of their access to timely in-house data. When the economy is on the turn, and the official data becomes contradictory, this can be crucial. James Hirst, of the Society of Business Economists and a former economist at Esso, believes business economists are more likely to emphasise the risks to growth rather than inflation. However, Mr Hirst cautions that there are limits to this enthusiasm and that it would be a "dereliction of duty" to threaten long-term stability for the sake of short-term growth.

Yet there is one big flaw in any cam-

pany to see some other business economist join Ms Julius on the MPC. Business economists are, in Mr Hirst's words, "an endangered species". In the relentless drive to cut costs, business economists have become regarded as something of a luxury and have fallen victim to the fashion for outsourcing. Where employees with formal economic training survive, it is normally at a more strategic level, turning numbers into business plans rather than providing a more general overview of the economic outlook.

British Telecom, for instance, caused a splash with its warning to the City that it believes the economic downturn is going to be worse than either the Bank or the

Treasury are predicting. However, the company does not have an in-house economist, and the view was developed by BT's finance director with outside advice.

Even more telling is that ICI, a company that has suffered more than most in the current downturn, has axed its chief economist post. The company's last economist Richard Freeman, a former OECD economist, took a high-profile stance and was strongly tipped as an MPC candidate. However, Mr Freeman has now retired and ICI has chosen to rely on external advice from City firms, such as Goldman Sachs and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, and more lowly in-house number crunchers to provide advice.

There are still exceptions to this rule. Donald Anderson at Courtauld's is well-respected within the profession but has little public profile. BP still possesses a strong in-house team headed by Professor Peter Davies, who has been one of the more active economic commentators from within

industry. BP also recruited Jill Rutter, formerly chief press officer at the Treasury, although the rather bitter nature of her departure suggests no Brown Treasury will consider her as an MPC candidate.

Andrew Sentence, Ms Julius's successor at British Airways, appears a more likely prospect. The former CBI chief economist is respected and, equally importantly, well known. However, Bob Ayling and Lord Marshall are proof that BA is the Government's favourite airline. Eyebrows would be raised if yet another BA employee finds a way into high office.

The dearth of candidates leaves business in something of a dilemma. Industry understandably wants more business-sensitive members of the MPC, but is no longer providing a breeding ground for economists. If Goldman's and academia are now considered sufficient to supply business with economic advice, there can be little complaint if the Chancellor draws the same conclusion.

Offshore tax havens buffeted by wind of regulatory change

Adam Jones on calls for greater accountability faced by island financial centres

WHEN the UK Government announced in January that it was looking at ways to tighten financial regulations in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, there was an uproar. In the States of Jersey, the island's assembly, a resolution was passed by 48 votes to one to protest to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, about a perceived failure to respect Jersey's right to make its own rules and regulations.

At the back of the senators' minds there was surely a fear that a draconian overhaul of financial policing would scare off the businesses and wealthy individuals that have flocked to the crown dependency for legitimate tax planning reasons.

Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man were still reeling from an attack by the head of the European Commission's anti-fraud unit, who said the islands were good examples of how "tax regulation combined with offshore status" created ideal hiding places for illegal financial operations.

The mainland's suspicion of these financial centres had also been heightened by the row over the £125 million Guernsey trust set up to benefit Geoffrey Robinson, the Labour Minister, by his Belgian benefactor, Madame Joska Bourgeois.

The fruits of the controversial Government review were published yesterday — several months later than expected — and it is hard to see what the initial fuss was about. The recommendations made by Andrew Edwards, a retired Treasury civil servant, are moderately worded and lubricated by a fair amount of praise.

He says that the islands are in the "top division" of offshore financial centres: "The infrastructures the islands have developed for their international finance centres seem remarkably good for such small jurisdictions."

His contentious suggestions, particularly a call to make the islands' private limited companies file audited accounts in accordance with EU standards, tend to allow room for dilution.



Millionaires' row: Guernsey has long provided a path to tax-efficient prosperity, but now the UK is flexing some regulatory muscle on the island

Keith Harbage, a tax partner at Ernst & Young, said there was nothing in the review to alienate individuals who use offshore financial services as a legitimate form of tax planning and wealth defence. Prominent people who have used offshore facilities include Richard Branson and Anita Roddick.

Some of the Edwards recommendations will actually help protect the wealthy beneficiaries of offshore trusts. He recommends limiting the practice of having just one trustee administering the client's money, to minimise the risk of fraud. He also wants the prohibition of clauses absolving trustees from negligence. The three tax havens are also being encouraged to set up investor compensation schemes.

There is no doubt that the islands had a lot to lose from a heavy handed crackdown. Islands in Europe are often impoverished but the growth of the financial services industry has meant that Jersey and Guernsey enjoy GDP significantly higher than the UK mainland.

Jersey and its 85,000 residents enjoy a balanced budget, no public debt and unemployment lower than 1 per cent. Its smallness and affluence have also led to high inflation, unaffordable housing, hideously clogged roads and some pretty starchy restaurant dress codes but, in general, it is all upside.

Jersey, unlike the Isle of Man, is able to boast that it turned down BCCI, the international bank which collapsed in 1990, because of a suspected lack of supervision and control. It employs about 10,400 people in finance.

The 61,400 residents of Guernsey, Alderney and Sark are similarly dependent on banks, insurers and tax specialists. Guernsey even has plans for its own stock exchange, which is due to start trading later this year.

The GDP of the Isle of Man, situated in the Irish Sea, is less than the mainland but finance still employs nearly 6,000 of its 73,000 residents.

Mr Edwards found that the value of the assets and liabilities of the institutions and trusts in the three crown

dependencies now totals £300-£350 billion. To watch over these massive sums, Mr Edwards wants separate financial crime units to police the islands. He is also looking for a big increase in the size of the regulatory departments, with about 20 extra people needed on each island. This is no small feat when you consider that the whole Jersey police force employs only 340.

Mr Edwards wants more on-site inspections, but he points out that growth in outsourcing of back-office functions of the islands makes regulation difficult.

Laurie Morgan, the chairman of Guernsey's Financial Services Commission, the island's regulator, says the step-up in staffing could be difficult, and not because of the extra cost.

He said: "We have very full employment. It's difficult enough to get professionals in the financial services industry at the best of times. To get people with regulatory experience is even more difficult."

Mr Morgan says the suggestion that private company accounts should be filed will be a problem. Guernsey has more than 36,000 partnerships and companies administered on the island.

He said: "Resident companies here have never been required to file their accounts publicly. Most of them are private family businesses. There would be a lot of resistance to change from domestic businesses."

He also said that many of the non-resident private companies are simply holding vehicles for private investments. One of the biggest benefits of public filing is to give customers and investors a picture of the firm they are dealing with.

A likely compromise, which Mr Edwards himself alludes to in the Home Office report, is the confidential filing of accounts with the regulator. How long and detailed they will be is anyone's guess.

Another battleground is likely to be Mr Edwards's desire for more comprehensive registration of companies. The Isle of Man, for in-

stance, does not yet have company registrations or require confidential disclosure of beneficial ownership. He hopes it will "seriously consider" doing this.

The Edwards report also calls on Jersey and Guernsey to make all companies report changes in beneficial ownership. Some companies incorporated elsewhere — the more loosely patrolled British Virgin Islands, say — currently escape this requirement.

Mr Edwards also wants to see a more aggressive use of the three dependencies' power to disqualify directors: "The authorities need not only to have disqualification powers but also to use them. Enforcement has so far been limited."

He wants the maximum disqualification standardised at 15 years.

The regulatory boards that enforce these rules should not include politicians, he said. Although some of these politicians spluttered when his review was announced in January, on the whole they cannot be too appalled by the results, this personal slight aside.

West loosens purse strings to world poor

IN 1980, Indonesia reached the point in its economic development when it became too rich to qualify for World Bank concessional lending through the International Development Association, set up in 1960 to provide financial help to very poor countries.

It is a sad mark of the severity of the impact of the Asian economic crisis that, after 18 years, incomes in Indonesia have fallen so catastrophically that the country is once again eligible for IDA lending.

To qualify for IDA loans, a country has to have GNP per capita of less than \$925 (£554 a year (as of 1997)). Last year, Indonesia's GNP per capita was \$1,110. It is now estimated to have plunged to about \$650, about the same as Côte d'Ivoire and less than Honduras had achieved before the ravages of Hurricane Mitch.

As leaders of APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation) said after this week's annual summit in Malaysia, the economic crisis had set back decades of progress in eliminating poverty and improving access to education and health.

This forbidding backdrop clearly concentrated minds at this week's negotiations in Copenhagen to refinance IDA for the next three years and yesterday the World Bank was able to announce an IDA replenishment of \$11.6 billion that was some \$500 million more generous than it had expected.

Britain raised its usual percentage share of the total coming from donors from 6.15 per cent to 7.3 per cent, so matching France. Britain's contribution has therefore increased from £431 million to £511 million. Ireland, although it has a small contribution, doubled it.

Japan, despite its economic problems and considerable bilateral aid and loan commitments in Asia and Russia, maintained its share.

The World Bank had been

confident that a reasonable settlement could be reached, having discerned a dramatic change of mood at the annual meetings of the Bank and the International Monetary Fund early in October. Suddenly, Western industrialised economies started to take the economic crisis seriously and, at the same time, its social costs. Taking the \$11.6 billion from 39 donor countries together with repayments of earlier IDA loans, and contributions from the World Bank itself, \$20.5 billion is now available for concessional lending over the next three years.

Myles Wickstead, UK representative at the World Bank, said: "In a climate in which aid is terribly difficult to find, this agreement is a strong endorsement of IDA and our efforts to reduce poverty."

However, there remain concerns that the IDA facility may not be large enough given the potential re-emergence of Indonesia as a borrower as well as Nigeria if elections next year yield a government with which the international community feels that it can work.

IDA donor countries said that they would aim to direct 50 per cent of the new funds to sub-Saharan Africa and did not want to be diverted from this by the problems of Asia.

Many African countries have been making strides towards more competent government, highlighted more strongly than ever before yesterday as a prerequisite for obtaining IDA financing. IDA deputies want to reward those efforts.

In reality, claims from Asia may not be too large. Indonesia excepted, the worst hit countries remain comparatively well off. Poor Asian countries that have long been eligible for IDA escaped the whirlwind because they had never attracted the attention of Western capital in the first place.

JANET BUSH



The collapse of the rupiah led to long food queues in Jakarta

Bull run ends

BAD news for Anthony Bull, the blameless property man who has served for almost 30 years as one kind of councillor or other at the Corporation of London. Bull is one of those long-time opponents of the regime at Guildhall who have so far been shut out of the centre of power, but it



"Wicked! I've just wiped out the profits of Sega"

had been assumed that his chance might at last come around next summer. That is when the next elections for sheriff come around, a post that is a prerequisite to becoming Lord Mayor. As I have mentioned before, the indications had been that the powers-that-be might finally have been prepared to let him have his place in the sun.

But now a new candidate has emerged. Hugh Harris, 62, was director in charge of personnel at the Bank of England until he retired in 1994 and is now director of operations at London First.

He tells me he will be throwing his hat into the ring. With a background like that he is very much the establishment candidate. I suppose, and likely to be favoured by the members of the livery companies, who are the ones with the vote.

I ALWAYS appreciate the efforts of the Merrill Lynch utilities team, who put an engaging cartoon on the front of their otherwise solid research document.

This month's has the good ship "Equity Markets" sinking on the horizon and the lifeboats pulling away, manned by the members of the team.



Left clinging to the iceberg are two men, Bowers and Alworthy, and a female figure, Shipton. None seem long for this world, while the utilities people row past, unconcerned.

So who are Bowers, Alworthy and Shipton, and what have they done to be marooned? Chris Rowland at Merrill tells me they are the strategy team there. "They are OK — they'll survive," he says, rather callously, I think.

But he is not revealing the identity of the other character in the cartoon, the man in glasses in the water about to go under for the last time. I suspect a senior manager at Merrill might recognise himself.

Leaking Net

THERE has been great concern in Whitehall about earlier leaks of the Edwards review of financial regulation of offshore tax havens. The leaks started in late September, and it was clear that the report, or at least a draft form of it, was being widely circulated among the press.

At yesterday's briefing on the review a journalist referred proudly to "my leaked document". Lord Williams of Mostyn, the Home Office Minister responsible, asked him, more in hope than in expectation, where he had got the document from. And a voice piped up from the back: "It's been on the Internet for weeks."

Indeed so. Someone close to the negotiations had posted it there, except that it differed from the real thing in one significant aspect. The proposals on publishing full accounts were far stricter than those the Home Office is now envisaging.

This rather suggests that, far from taking a hard line on offshore chicanery, the Government has had to back down at the last moment. Now, I wonder in whose interest it might be to give that impression?

Cash call

SOMEONE is taking the millennium bug seriously. Staff at Reed Elsevier have

just received a pull-out in their company magazine, titled Countdown 2000. It lists the steps they are advised to take late next year.

Remember, Reed publishes Computer Weekly and other specialist titles that ought to know what they are talking about. Staff are advised to make sure they have hard copies of tax returns, utilities bills and other financial records. They are to contact their bank, insurance company and GP (if) and ask all of them if their computerised records are bug-free.

Also, "ensure you have enough cash to last for the first few weeks of the new century". Weeks? The joke going around the firm is that Reed has no intention of paying them until March, just to be on the safe side.

FROM a list of anagrams doing the rounds of the electronic ether: Performance related pay — mere end of year claptrap.

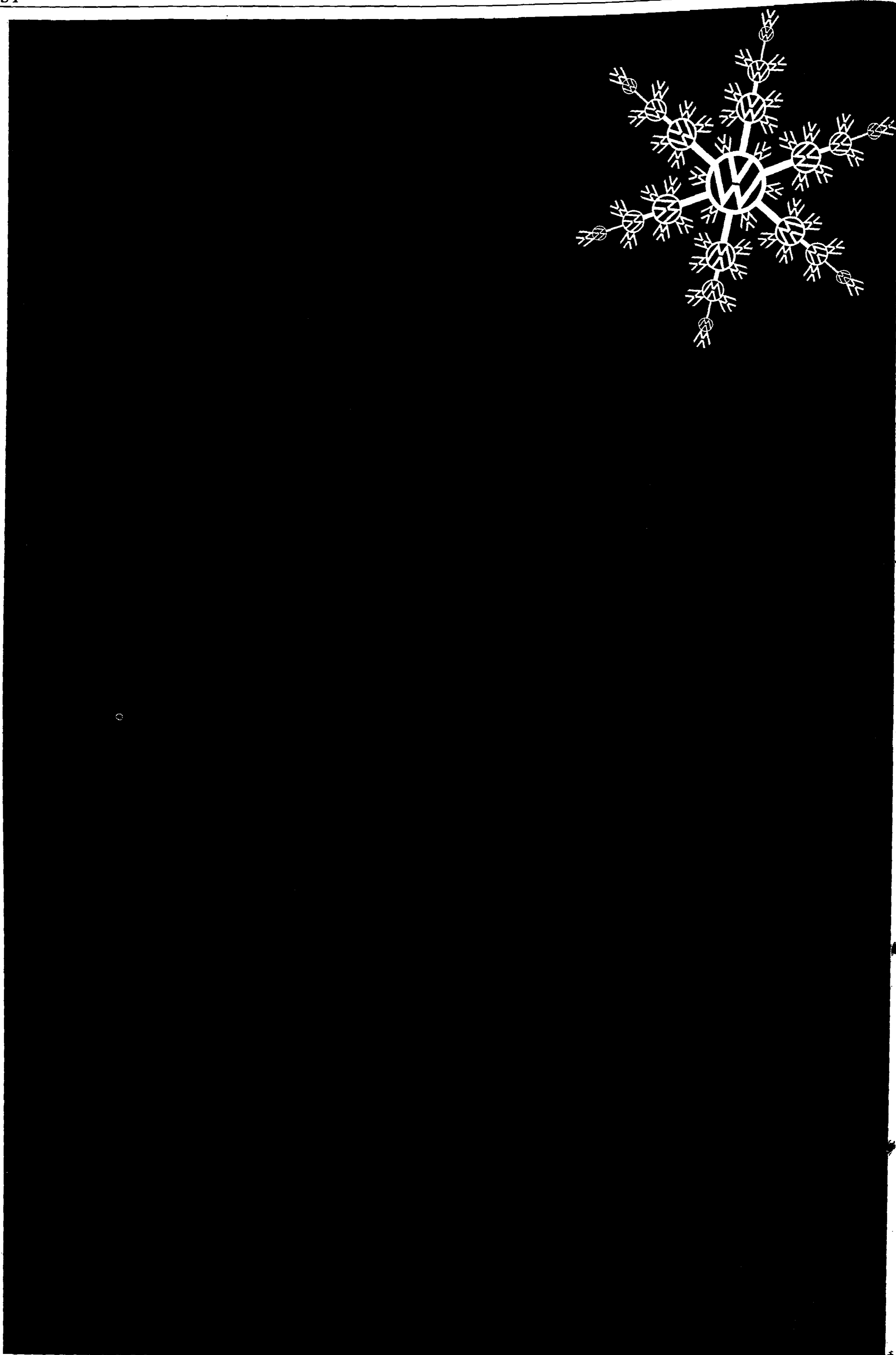
Card trick

SIR RONNIE HAMPEL gave his farewell speech as chairman of ICI at the Chemical Industries Association last night. He recalled how he had worked for ICI for almost two thirds of the company's lifetime. And how he nearly didn't make it through the first year. Hampel was a lowly commercial trainee in Bristol. His

MARTIN WALLER



Sir Ronnie Hampel: Recalls sticky moment early in his career at ICI

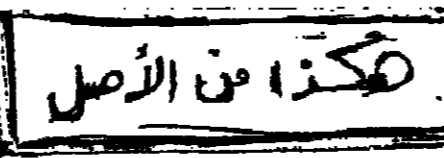


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Equities squeezed higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1998	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High
119	119	Alcoholic Beverages	119	119	Alcoholic Beverages	119	119	Alcoholic Beverages	119	119	Alcoholic Beverages	119	119	Alcoholic Beverages	119
120	120	Banks	120	120	Banks	120	120	Banks	120	120	Banks	120	120	Banks	120
121	121	Breweries, Pubs & Rest	121	121	Breweries, Pubs & Rest	121	121	Breweries, Pubs & Rest	121	121	Breweries, Pubs & Rest	121	121	Breweries, Pubs & Rest	121
122	122	Diversified Industrials	122	122	Diversified Industrials	122	122	Diversified Industrials	122	122	Diversified Industrials	122	122	Diversified Industrials	122
123	123	Electricity	123	123	Electricity	123	123	Electricity	123	123	Electricity	123	123	Electricity	123
124	124	Building Materials	124	124	Building Materials	124	124	Building Materials	124	124	Building Materials	124	124	Building Materials	124
125	125	Electronic & Elect	125	125	Electronic & Elect	125	125	Electronic & Elect	125	125	Electronic & Elect	125	125	Electronic & Elect	125
126	126	Chemicals	126	126	Chemicals	126	126	Chemicals	126	126	Chemicals	126	126	Chemicals	126
127	127	Engineering	127	127	Engineering	127	127	Engineering	127	127	Engineering	127	127	Engineering	127
128	128	Construction	128	128	Construction	128	128	Construction	128	128	Construction	128	128	Construction	128
129	129	Insurance	129	129	Insurance	129	129	Insurance	129	129	Insurance	129	129	Insurance	129
130	130	Investment Trusts	130	130	Investment Trusts	130	130	Investment Trusts	130	130	Investment Trusts	130	130	Investment Trusts	130
131	131	Engineering Vehicles	131	131	Engineering Vehicles	131	131	Engineering Vehicles	131	131	Engineering Vehicles	131	131	Engineering Vehicles	131

1998	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High
132	132	Food Manufacturers	132	132	Food Manufacturers	132	132	Food Manufacturers	132	132	Food Manufacturers	132	132	Food Manufacturers	132
133	133	Healthcare	133	133	Healthcare	133	133	Healthcare	133	133	Healthcare	133	133	Healthcare	133
134	134	Household Goods & Text	134	134	Household Goods & Text	134	134	Household Goods & Text	134	134	Household Goods & Text	134	134	Household Goods & Text	134
135	135	Leisure & Hotels	135	135	Leisure & Hotels	135	135	Leisure & Hotels	135	135	Leisure & Hotels	135	135	Leisure & Hotels	135
136	136	Mining	136	136	Mining	136	136	Mining	136	136	Mining	136	136	Mining	136
137	137	Oil & Gas	137	137	Oil & Gas	137	137	Oil & Gas	137	137	Oil & Gas	137	137	Oil & Gas	137
138	138	Other Financial	138	138	Other Financial	138	138	Other Financial	138	138	Other Financial	138	138	Other Financial	138
139	139	Pharmaceuticals	139	139	Pharmaceuticals	139	139	Pharmaceuticals	139	139	Pharmaceuticals	139	139	Pharmaceuticals	139
140	140	Shorts (under 5 years)	140	140	Shorts (under 5 years)	140	140	Shorts (under 5 years)	140	140	Shorts (under 5 years)	140	140	Shorts (under 5 years)	140
141	141	Longs (over 15 years)	141	141	Longs (over 15 years)	141	141	Longs (over 15 years)	141	141	Longs (over 15 years)	141	141	Longs (over 15 years)	141
142	142	Undated	142	142	Undated	142	142	Undated	142	142	Undated	142	142	Undated	142
143	143	Index-linked	143	143	Index-linked	143	143	Index-linked	143	143	Index-linked	143	143	Index-linked	143
144	144	Mediums (5 to 15 years)	144	144	Mediums (5 to 15 years)	144	144	Mediums (5 to 15 years)	144	144	Mediums (5 to 15 years)	144	144	Mediums (5 to 15 years)	144

1998	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High	Low	Company	High
145	145	Printing & Paper	145	145	Printing & Paper	145	145	Printing & Paper	145	145	Printing & Paper	145	145	Printing & Paper	145
146	146	Property	146	146	Property	146	146	Property	146	146	Property	146	146	Property	146
147	147	Telecommunications	147	147	Telecommunications	147	147	Telecommunications	147	147	Telecommunications	147	147	Telecommunications	147
148	148	Transport	148	148	Transport	148	148	Transport	148	148	Transport	148	148	Transport	148
149	149	Retailers, Food	149	149	Retailers, Food	149	149	Retailers, Food	149	149	Retailers, Food	149	149	Retailers, Food	149
150	150	Retailers, General	150	150	Retailers, General	150	150	Retailers, General	150	150	Retailers, General	150	150	Retailers, General	150
151	151	Water	151	151	Water	151	151	Water	151	151	Water	151	151	Water	151
152	152	Alternative Inv Market	152	152	Alternative Inv Market	152	152	Alternative Inv Market	152	152	Alternative Inv Market	152	152	Alternative Inv Market	152
153	153	Support Services	153	153	Support Services	153	153	Support Services	153	153	Support Services	153	153	Support Services	153

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Advisers to the world

Rodney Hobson introduces a two-page report on awards to our consultants overseas

When the British Consultants Bureau (BCB) totted up its members of projects won by its members in October, the total for the UK and the rest of the world came to a surprising 124. Surprising in that despite the economic downturn, the crisis in Asia and the uncertainty of a new Government at home, that was a record for any single month.

The bureau has been looking for consolidation. Many of its members have merged or slimmed down to secure specialist markets. The body itself is talking to other representative associations that include consultants so that, in the words of Colin Adams, the BCB director: "We can have one British bulldog instead of several yapping puppies."

Latest figures show that fee earnings rose in 1997 from £2.4 billion to £2.6 billion. There was a British consul-



Crown Agents set up a customs authority to beat the smuggling problem in Mozambique

tancy presence in every country in the world except Nauru and New Caledonia.

However, Mr Adams admits: "It is this year that the strong pound and the effects of the Asian crisis are being felt. One or two of the smaller consultancies have been gasping for air."

Mr Adams and his team have taken a positive attitude to the difficulties. He has been to Mozambique and Angola, a trade mission went to Egypt

and Nigel Peters, the deputy director, led a team to Brazil, accompanied by Nick Raynsford, a Minister in the Environment Department. India, China, Malaysia and Hong Kong featured in the top ten list of countries in terms of contracts won last year.

There is still work, perhaps of a different nature, out East. Mr Adams says: "The World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other funds are looking for expertise in privatisa-

tion. Private companies want advice on streamlining. They are trimming fat, a process that the Far East should have gone through some time ago but didn't have to."

Mr Adams and Mr Peters believe that Latin America and Africa offer enormous opportunities for consultants. Africa has, in Mr Adams's phrase, been "viewed with diffidence" by many companies because of political and military upheavals over the years. However, even Mozambique and Angola offer scope as they rebuild their war-torn nations.

Mr Adams adds: "We are seeking partnerships with South African companies. We bring in experience that dovetails with what their consultants know of local conditions."

The other area is Latin America. The potential there is enormous. There is an almost institutionalised reluctance for British companies to work there that defies logic. At the turn of century there was a strong British presence in South America; for example, in railways and other projects. Those consultants who are in Latin America are doing lots of good work in utilities, airports and mining. We have set up a Spanish language course. I am sure that we will see a trend there."

Back home, the BCB has been assessing its working relationship with the Labour

Government, and reactions have been mixed. On the positive side, ministers such as Mr Raynsford and government departments have been giving a lot of support.

"But it has been slightly disappointing in that we think that exporting has not been given the amount of support it could have had at the political level," says Mr Adams.

He cites the abolition of the aid and trade provision and changes to tax on earnings abroad. Under new rules, consultants must work abroad for a full tax year to avoid paying tax here. He says: "To the smaller consultancies and those that do short-term projects of a year to 14 months, the foreign-earnings deduction gave us competitiveness."

"Under the old system, if you were abroad for 365 days, employees could claim tax back for their 365 days out of the country. That is no longer the case. You have to be out of the country from April 6 to the following April 5. That does not work well for projects because you cannot get them all starting on April 6."

"If a project that started in May this year runs until March 2000, tax will be deducted for two years because the consultants will not be away for a full tax year. The change was designed to stop people such as pop singers, who were rolling over their income so that they were paid when they were out of the country, but it has hit consultants hard."

Mr Adams says that the Government has pledged to make the tax system equal. But, he adds: "Getting people to go to leave their families behind, means that companies have to top up their salaries gross. That makes British consultants less competitive in bidding for projects."

Treasury ministers are not sympathetic, although, Mr Adams says, Brian Wilson, the Trade Minister, has suggested the bureau come up with an alternative way to give incentives for exporters. But, Mr Adams says: "That is hard because of European rules on subsidies. Other countries, meanwhile, are giving subsidies through the tax system."



White-water networking: a BCB group brings rapids below the Iguacu Falls in Brazil

Mission possible

The difference between effective and unsuccessful exporting consulting companies is often the ability to win work by networking, both in the UK and overseas. Too often, executives assume that ability alone will bring clients and international funding institutions to their door, while they sit in the office in Guildford or Glasgow.

The British Consultants Bureau (BCB) aims to help its members to win consulting projects throughout the world — and for this, networking is vital. Unlike the single-focus trade associations, whose members are commercial rivals, BCB has 90 sectors and disciplines across the consultancy spectrum. It is remarkable how many projects are won by word-of-mouth contacts between members of disparate backgrounds. Above all, networking can produce multidisciplinary teams able to take on complex projects.

Most sectors are seeing a shift towards the internationalisation of consultancy. This can be a great advantage, but is not always in the best interests of British companies and their overseas earnings. Indeed, the Chancellor's alacrity at the last Budget in virtually doing away with UK foreign earnings deduction on personal income has made the employment of some British expatriates uncompetitive.

Most BCB meetings in this country and overseas involve a good deal of networking.

Nothing succeeds like a well-run visit to a target market, says Colin Adams

Each year, 250 senior visitors from all over the world visit the association's London headquarters or other venues throughout the country. Last year visitors included ministers from various Central European, African and Latin American states and the director-general of a UN agency.

For exporting consultants, however, there is no substitute for visiting target markets overseas — which is why so many take part in the eight to ten missions each year that BCB organises. Earlier this year there were visits to Austria, Georgia and Azerbaijan, the World Bank in Washington, the UN in New York, and

the EU in Brussels. This autumn groups have visited Egypt and Brazil with Nick Raynsford, the Minister for Construction. The Duke of Gloucester, the BCB's president, has just returned from leading a similar mission to Angola and Mozambique.

The access afforded by a member of the Royal Family or a minister on such visits cannot be exaggerated. If the average British consultant visits a country on his own, he will be fortunate if he gets an interview with even a senior official in a government ministry. By joining a BCB mission, he gains access to a wide range of ministers — even, on occasion, to prime ministers.

The BCB returned from southern Africa, as it did from Brazil and Egypt, with potential projects for many sectors. Some of these will surely be translated into contracts for British companies — and next year's overseas programme is even more ambitious.

● The author is the executive director of the British Consultants Bureau (0171-222 3651 or www.bcbforum.demon.co.uk).

Providing global consultancy locally

ARUP

The worst late payer

EU delays in settling bills are straining finances

Brussels-bashers will not be surprised. The body that brought Europe the Late Payment Directive imposing penalties on those who pay bills late is itself one of the worst culprits.

The European Commission is never the easiest of bodies for those who hate bureaucratic wrangling, but consultants have found that the department handling the Tacis project takes the biscuit.

Worse still, many of the victims whose invoices have to go through 20 steps before they can be paid, and who often find that invoices bounce back on the flimsiest excuse, are scared to speak out because of veiled hints that the complainers will be excluded from short-lists for further work.

This is a real fear because though consultants technically compete on merit and price, Brussels runs an unofficial quota system to see that work is shared among European Union member states.

Tacis stands for technical assistance to the CIS, the group of East European states that clung together after the breakup of the Soviet Union. Tacis still runs the EU's aid programme for the rest of the old Soviet bloc, plus Mongolia.

Colin Adams, the executive director of the British Consultants Bureau, says: "A total of £6.3 million is owed to 19 of our members. Some have taken out loans to cope. One firm borrowed £250,000 to pay the staff wages."

Nigel Peters, the deputy director, adds: "Tacis work is often based in remote areas. You have to have the receipt if you hire a taxi in Kazakhstan. Just imagine asking for one. The European Commission issuing a Late Payment Directive is absolutely scandalous. It is the worst offender."

The EU has a 60-day target for paying invoices and adds interest at 6 per cent to bills unpaid beyond 60 days. Delays have typically run to 17 weeks, but one British consultant had to wait 30 weeks.

Mr Adams comments: "Six per cent interest will not cover the cost of a bank loan in the UK. In any case, it means that money is being wasted. It is not going on what it was intended for, but on interest."

The argument has not been lost on the British Government, which put up £7 million of the £434 million provided by the Tacis fund last year. Tacis is being replaced by

Service Commun Reflex, a contract letting and bill-paying department that came into being in September when there was already a four-month backlog of unpaid bills.

Mr Adams says: "This is a sensible move but our concern is to make sure that it gets efficient before it is able to get inefficient. Only now is it getting into gear."

These delays are worrying

for consultants for two reasons. First, many have moved into Eastern Europe to compensate for the downturn in the Asian economies.

Secondly, official aid programmes such as Tacis and World Bank schemes offer protection against the economic difficulties in Russia. At least Tacis will pay up some day.

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Michael Knipe profiles the winners of this year's awards, for projects ranging from leading-edge construction to mine clearance

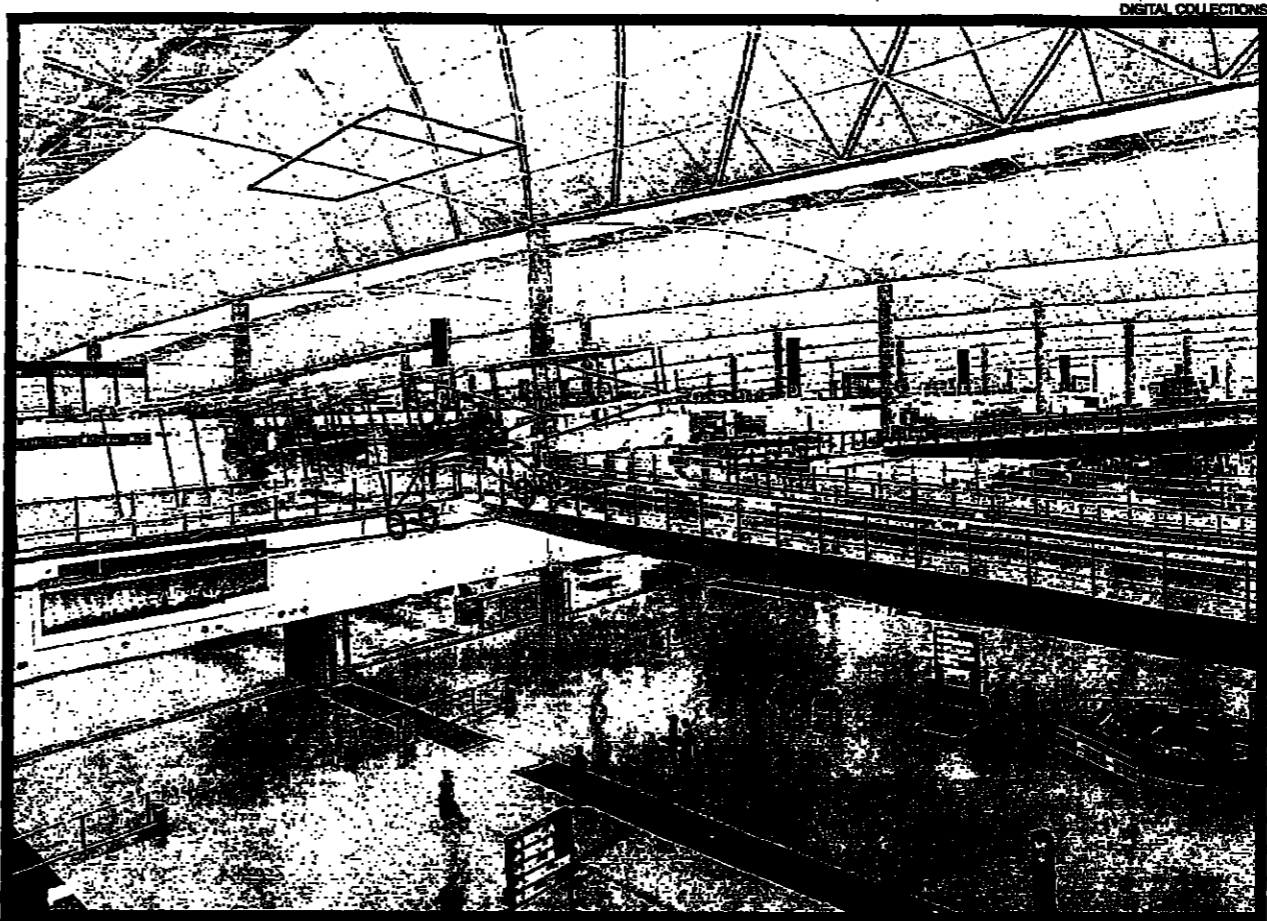
Ten Wembleys well-crafted in concrete

Category A (tangible visible project): Mott MacDonald for Hong Kong airport

The Hong Kong International Airport passenger terminal, the world's largest single airport building—equal to ten Wembley Stadiums—has won the British Consultancy Firm of the Year Award for Mott MacDonald, the multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy.

ed, says Hugh Norie, a Mott MacDonald director and chairman of the consortium. The Y-shaped concourse provides access to 48 aircraft gates while a 330-metre-wide base of the Y houses the processing terminal. This features a baggage hall the size of New York's Yankee Stadium and the largest single retail space of any airport.

Among the building's striking features are its streamlined roof, superb concrete finishes and dramatic floor-to-ceiling glazing. Less visible but equally significant aspects are the first airport information network enabling all occupants to share common information, and an interchangeable foundation system to cope with ground that ranges from bedrock to reclaimed land.



The stunning new Hong Kong airport terminal building is believed to be the largest enclosed public space ever created

Category B (organizational or non-visual): Joint winner: Crown Agents for Mozambique Customs

IN A high-security-risk operation, the British consultancy Crown Agents has created a sustainable, efficient customs authority in Mozambique during the past two years, enabling the Maputo Government to increase its revenue, facilitate legitimate trade and attract investment.

Revenue collection during the first phase of action rose by 44 per cent and customs clearance times were dramatically reduced, with 80 per cent of goods being cleared within 24 hours.

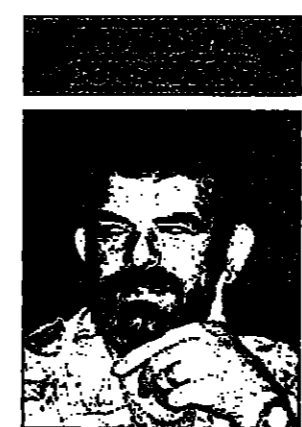
More than 230 new recruits to the customs service have been trained and deployed and a cadre of the existing staff has been selected for management development training.

Category B (organizational or non-visual): Joint winner: Cameron McKenna for California deregulation

THE Cameron McKenna law firm's Energy Team achieved a coup in winning the task of implementing deregulation of the electricity utility in California, where lawyers are thick on the ground. It was, said the President of the Law Society, "a bit like exporting English chefs to France".

Category A: Tony Abbotts of IMC Group Consulting

TONY ABBOTTS has played a pivotal role in the development of the Maghara drift mine in the northern Sinai Desert, the only underground coalmine in the Middle East.



Mine work: Tony Abbotts

Under Egyptian employment laws, the mine has to operate a complicated shift pattern, an arrangement made more difficult by the need to transport workers daily by bus from Ishaiaia, 100 miles away.

Special award: Tom Larmour

TOM LARMOUR was Ove Arup's senior official responsible for the design of four stations on the railway linking Hong Kong, Lantau and the new airport. Each one involved considerable technical challenges.

Highly Recommended

Consultancy of the Year, Category A: Peter Brett Associates

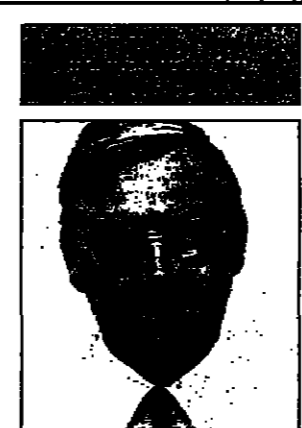
PETER Brett Associates teamed up with Thorpe Architecture and an Austrian lawyer to promote the development of a 300-hectare site at Genshagen, 12 miles south of Berlin, which it has turned into the largest business park in Europe.

Category B: Chris Mathias of ULG Consultants

CHRIS MATHIAS led a ULG Consultants team which set up an agricultural market information system in Kyrgyzstan, a former Soviet republic, which has enabled farmers to increase their exports.

Category B: Chris Mathias of ULG Consultants

The project involved the weekly collection and dissemination of price information, the creation of a database of farm suppliers, machinery dealers and sources of fuel, and the setting up of another database of world market prices, including those in neighbouring republics.



Persuader: Chris Mathias

Other problems were the uncertainty of communications and power supply, but the project was fully under way by May last year and the World Bank took it over this year with a view to extending it nationwide.

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UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices and details for various funds, including columns for fund names, prices, and other financial metrics.

Advertisement for CERRUTI IMAGE fragrance, featuring a bottle image and the text 'The new fragrance for men from CERRUTI'.

Large advertisement for Drummer Fierce featuring a drum set and the text 'Drummer Fierce'.



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Why Vivaldi?
It's not the
music that
counts...

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE

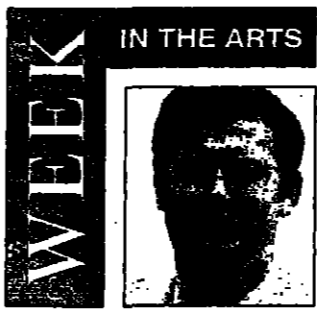


You don't have to be mad to be an artist, but a little endearing quirkiness never did any harm. Tonight, in the fair port of Grimsby, what is claimed to be the world's longest painting will be unveiled in its full glory for the first time. It is an eye-stretching 200 metres long by 1.5 metres high. It has been painted in watercolour by a 63-year-old Chinese refugee called Hai Shuei Yeung, and it is called *Culture 5000*—this being a reference to the 5,000 years of Chinese civilisation that it celebrates. And if you think this sounds a bit fishy, you would be right. Yeung's painting depicts shoals of brilliantly coloured carp—the Chinese symbol of good fortune. There are 5,000 carp, of course, and Yeung says that they will be in "a variety of moods". (Just how many moods does a carp have?)

Don't carp, this could be a world record

buildings in Britain long enough to mount a 200-metre painting. Naturally, Yeung has been snubbed by the metropolitan art clique. He was refused membership of the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours, and has been disdainfully ignored by the London critics. But the local community has got behind him. North East Lincolnshire Council is backing the unveiling of his (in every sense) *magnum opus*; and the event is being organised by none other than the Rotary Club of Cleethorpes. A 200-metre roll of paper has been specially manufactured by a generous mill, and a local sheet-metal company has undertaken the challenge of holding the thing upright. None of which is surprising, for Yeung is a local hero. In his native China he was a chemistry teacher, but he fell foul of the authorities and fled to Hong Kong. He came

to Grimsby 30 years ago, worked as a waiter, then opened an art gallery over his Chinese restaurant. His 5,000 carp don't come out of the blue, so to speak. To mark the handover of Hong Kong in 1997 he painted a ten-metre *Hong Kong Fish Scroll*—of 1,997 carp, naturally. *Culture 5000* has taken months to complete; a bit of it (a mere football-pitch length) was shown at the London Contemporary Art and Design Show in June. After Grimsby, Yeung hopes to take it on an international tour, after which he intends to cut it into 100 pieces and sell it to museums and collectors. The first piece he wants to give to the National Museum in Beijing; the last he has earmarked for a leading British museum. That, he says, will symbolise the "cultural bridge between China, my motherland, and Britain, my fatherland".



RICHARD MORRISON

Good luck to him. His sparkling shoals of carp may not have the trendy shock-impact of Damien Hirst's dead shark, but you will never see another watercolour remotely like this one. And what do the eagle-eyed scrutineers at the *Guinness Book of*

Records say about its claim to be the world's longest painting? "We don't usually monitor the length of paintings," sniffs a spokeswoman. Shame on you, madam. "But we would certainly consider it," she adds, more generously. Then catch the Grimsby train this very afternoon! History is being made.

making, programme-writing — and of course panicking. There will be 25 "pros" backstage to guide the volunteers. Even so, putting on a musical is a process that normally takes Cameron Mackintosh or Lord Lloyd-Webber about three years. In Devon this weekend that corny old line from the Mickey Rooney films — "Hey kids, why don't we do the show right here and now?" — will acquire a whole new significance. And it will lead to just one performance. "We reckoned that, after 24 hours without sleep, adrenalin would carry them through one show, but asking them to repeat it on Sunday might be courting disaster," says a Northcott spokesman. The concept, you won't be surprised to learn, is called a "mad show", and has been introduced around the country by a theatre pioneer called Sarah Robinson. But

this is the first time that a big repertory theatre has become involved. To me, it doesn't sound mad at all. We live in an age that takes its cultural lead from Hollywood. Most shows are rehearsed, polished, edited, rewritten, recut and market-tested into sterility before the public gets a look in. Even allegedly "improvised" TV satire is scripted and packaged into dull safety. Spontaneity, instant creativity, danger: those qualities have been quietly erased from showbiz. I don't say that every production should accelerate from nought to first night in just 24 hours. But once in a while, someone should walk the tightrope in public without a safety net. Besides which, few things entertain the British public more than a wild race against time. Witness the pre-11 macabre fascination with the disastrous non-progress of the Jubilee Line towards the Millennium Dome in Greenwich. I hope that the intrepid 24-hour thespians of Exeter are more successful than that. Break 150 legs, darlings.



Sweeping all before them: all the world's a drum kit to the crew of *Stomp*, but on no account take children who still have time to ask Santa for one

La Cuadra de Sevilla's *Carmen* is a wonderful and unexpected show that veers well away from the usually Gypsy menu. Described as an Andalusian folk opera with bugles and drums, it evokes the culture of Spain more vividly than anything you have probably seen before — although it helps to like the distinctive, piercing sound of Spanish professional music. This is a ritualistic semi-staging, using song, music, dance and startling theatrical effects. There is even a white stallion trained in the *haute école* prances of the Spanish Riding School. The horse is ridden by a picador (Jaime de la Puerta) who in this version is Don José's rival. This *Carmen* goes back to the allegedly true life-story of a *cigarrera* (cigarette maker), who lived in the early 19th century, and removes the distortions imposed by Prosper Mérimée's novella and Bizet's opera. Here, Carmen is not sexually manipulative, but a heroine, more sympathetic, more logical and profound, who campaigns for the rights and dignity of working-class women.

Gypsy in her Spanish soul

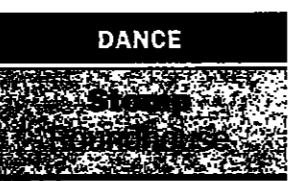
She rejects Don José not because she has simply moved on to another liaison, but because Don José represents the reactionary military establishment which has just executed General Rafael de Riego (Juan Romero) for supporting a progressive constitution. The dance representations of death are extraordinarily powerful. Lalo Tejada's Carmen is stabbed in the stomach — though not literally, thank-

fully, given the fearsome sharpness of the knife stuck into the floor throughout the whole performance. Before that, Carmen has duly rolled cigarettes on her bared thigh and, a revolutionary figure-head, has stood in a red dress next to a giant fluttering flag during the Riego episode. Like El Mistela as Don José, she had also given her heart and body to lengthy, exhausting dances. Their final recriminatory duet, she kneeling with upflung arms, is almost unbearably intense, heightened by the sudden burst of bugles and drums. The staging is simple but concentrated, the choreography for the soldiers contributing an appropriately militaristic elegance. The Band of the Santísimo Cristo de Las Tres Caidas (a processional brotherhood) arranged on either side like a regimental parade. The singers and guitarists sit with them, among them a riveting male singer who acts with his voice and gestures and turns out to be the director and creator of the show, Salvador Távora.

NADINE MEISNER

Drumming up a fierce new storm

Having been told that *Stomp* has a global audience of 206 million, I can see little point in explaining the thing. But the fact that much of this exposure has been via television gives me hope, since it guarantees that at least 200 million of you were too busy eating pizza or arguing with the dog to pay attention. I ask you box-gogglers to cast your mind back to more innocent times; the lunch table in the school dining-room, perhaps. Was there a time when,



driven by teenage ennui or whatever, you hit your knife against the side of your cup and discovered that it made a noise? And did you then proceed to hit other things with your knife to produce a selection of rhythmic clankings? And did your friends join in?

Even unto the point of being hauled up in front of the headmaster? That, in a nutshell, is *Stomp*. The *Stomp* principle is that all the world is a drum kit, and there is a duty to hit it in as many and as varied ways as possible, whether this involves tap dancing on sand or biting each other over the head with plastic tubing. Theoretically this occurs in a mechanics' workshop, as styled by Herb Ritts and supplied by a very overexcited Hollywood prop buyer (car parts and a cement

mixer in the same place? Very unorthodox). Aurally it hits the same switches as a martial band or an Iron John workshop; something in those crazy rhythms speaks to the long-lost co-ordinated part deep down inside the British soul; it's drumming and it feels good. The news that any show is an international hit is not automatic encouragement; a five-year off-Broadway run leads one off to the unpleasant suspicion that Louise Woodward went to see it 17 times in a row; and after all, it is not so long since a lot of people thought *Riverdance* was a good idea. Fortunately, top boy Luke Cresswell has yet to spray body oil on his chest or start sporting nifty little hairbands. Indeed, *Stomp* is unlike anything else around: a bad-tempered, noisy dance show that is terribly funny, unexpectedly involving and, even after performances on the Moon and a private audience with the Pope, still manages to feel fresh and exciting.

Stomp is back in its native land for five months, so the remaining 300 million of you can get to see it. Just a few words of advice: don't meet these people for a breakfast meeting with a hangover, and whatever you do, don't take any children to see the show while there is still time to ask Santa for a drum kit.

HETTIE JUDAH

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POP OPINION

After the ball was over...

Party animals get in line

Next time someone offers you a pass to an aftershow party — say no and go home to Newsnight

One of my favourite things in the whole wide world is getting a pass to an aftershow party. I don't use the pass myself; heavens no. My house has a very large television, and as a band's last chord fades into the feid murk of the London Astoria, my thoughts turn irrevocably towards Newsnight. But it's utterly thrilling to go up to a sweaty fan staggering out of the mosh-pit and say to them: "Would you like a pass to the aftershow?" They don't believe you at first: they stare thunderstruck at the little stick-on pass. Then comes the burbling — they're hopelessly dehydrated from all that bouncing around, and their tongues appear to be welded to their palate.

like policemen searching wasteland for a dead body. However, all efforts go supremely unrewarded, as the "parties" (no free beer — that has always vanished by the time one gets there) take place in a putrid green corridor where the floor is permanently awash under a greasy film of cider, and the bar is as large as the average family's dining-room table. You could put yourself on an NHS waiting-list for non-malignant mole-removal and get seen to sooner.

The Brixton Academy Aftershow Experience also exemplifies the other tedious facet of these shindigs: it has only one female lav. Often, the half-hour queue for the lavs merges with the queue for the bar, and one is faced with the cruel situation of being asked what you want to drink, when your bladder is as full as an over-pumped football.

Anyway, it doesn't matter how many toilets a venue has, because they are very rarely being used for the purpose for which they were ordained.

This being the music industry, toilets are predominantly used for those following the Ways of Gallagher, ie. snorking up huge lines of coke. Now, there are many reasons to hate cocaine: it fuels huge gangs of Colombian murderers; it prompts pompous, unlistenable albums; it turns anyone under the influence into a gabbling tit-wit you'd gladly kill your mother to get away from.

The reason I hate cocaine, however, is because I have an Achilles bladder. If Class A drugs were legal, at least these idiots could snuffle away in quiet corners, leaving those with a genuine medical need free run of the cubicles.

So if you've never been to an aftershow, and would still like to sample the unique atmos go home, shut your toilet door and take the handle off so you can never get in there again. Put on a record you hate REALLY LOUDLY; spend half an hour warming up some beer in a saucepan and decant it on the floor; and try to drag Mark Lamarr along for the ride.

And to everyone I've ever given a pass to: sorry.



CAITLIN MORAN

ARTS

LIVE GIG

Unconvincing Imbruglia

Winsome, lose some

There has always seemed something slightly phoney about Natalie Imbruglia. Why, for instance, did the Australian singer need five producers and nine co-writers on her debut album. *Left of the Middle*? Such production-line hit-making is fine, except that, when asked about her influences, Imbruglia reeled off a list of highly credible singer-songwriters apparently tailored to signal that we should treat her as a serious artist rather than another pop sensation.

Her cause was not helped by the row over her biggest hit, *Torn*. Of course, the Imbruglia camp will tell you that she never actually claimed authorship, but she hardly went



out of her way to correct those who assumed she was baring her own soul in the song or to acknowledge Ednaswap, the rather fine Los Angeles band that actually wrote it.

As a live performer, too, Imbruglia's decaffeinated approach does little to dispel the doubts. If she sometimes wonders what she has to do to shed the description "former Neighbours star", the answer is a lot more than this. For the first 45 minutes at the Forum she played a set of competent folk-pop that was curiously devoid of both charm and conviction. Her songs attempt to convey a personal emotional narrative, but she appeared to lack the distinctive personality required to carry it off.

Although she was on stage in front of several hundred people, it was almost as if she was hiding from us. *Smoke*, her most recent single, was a case in point. It sounded like something from the Corrs songbook, except that whereas the Irish band would have given it an alluring sheen all their own, Imbruglia's delivery was polished but characterless. The overall effect was like taking a walk around Ikea: vaguely stylish but in a non-challenging, risk-free sort of way.

Then suddenly, on her last two numbers, the pounding *Impressed* and the tough-sounding *Don't You Think?*, she changed tack and decided to play the rock babe. For the first time in the evening she appeared animated rather than detached. But even then it was hard to tell if she was merely deploying her acting skills.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON



If pop poppet Natalie Imbruglia really wants to lose the tag of "former Neighbours star", she'll have to come across as less of an actress onstage.

Paul Sexton joins Roddy Frame, once of Aztec Camera, for a one-off Outer Hebrides gig

John Laurie, in his role as the classic screen Scotsman Private Frazer of *Dad's Army*, would roll his eyes in that wild, haunted way of his and blether about his childhood on "the looniesy isle of Barra". After a recent warm-up in a similarly sequestered spot in the Outer Hebrides, off Scotland's northwest coast, Roddy Frame has some fellow-feeling.

Go down a storm off the beat track

Tonight in Manchester, Frame continues an eight-date tour of more conventional English and Scottish venues in support of *The North Star*, the first album to carry his own name after more than 15 years as Aztec Camera. It was the title of the album that last month prompted the Glasgow-born, London-based singer and writer to embark on a particularly wacky entertain-



Roddy Frame: have acoustic guitar, will travel

ment enterprise that Frazer would no doubt have described as "shee-eer folly". So it was that he came to land at an airport with the dimensions of an upmarket petrol station in Stormoway, on the isle of Lewis. Administrative centre of the Western Isles; population 5,925 at the last census; land of peat bogs and gales. And, for one night only, home to the Roddy Frame roadshow.

The idea, Frame explained, was to seize the spirit of his album title and boldly go, acoustic guitar in hand, where not very many rock artists could be bothered to go before. "I've always done things like this, at the drop of a hat," he said. "Now I understand why I didn't take up the piano."

Mercifully, we completed our Stormoway pilgrimage before the sting in the tail of Hurricane Mitch had the poor Hebrides reeling on the ropes. But the fine, silvery rain still fell horizontally, sharing meteorological shiftwork with timorous sunshine. Four seasons in one day indeed.

Locals reminisce about the detours that have seen the occasional celebrity visit to the island. They cherish the memory, still fresh in their minds, of a stopover by Echo and the Bunnymen — in 1983. That mini-tour, which also took in Skye in the Inner Hebrides, has passed into Bunnymen folklore, not least because their ever-pugnacious frontman Ian McCulloch allegedly got into a fight with a local who pointed out McCulloch was wearing ballet shoes and no socks.

know that sounds like something Bob Monkhouse would say, but I was.

Come gig time, the venue — an irony-free tinsel tribute to 1970s disco kitsch in the Seaforth Hotel — was respectably if not heavily populated by curious observers and committed Aztec Camera devotees. Frame, who, after plying his trade since the early 1980s, is still an impossibly youthful 34, punctuated an assured set with moments of tactical charm. "The taxi driver told me today that the women outnumber the men in this town by five to one, is that true?" he asked at one point. "So if it was, there'd be 15 women here tonight, eh?"

Black, a Glaswegian himself who, like many others, came to Lewis and surprised himself by staying, said: "We're given a lot of bad publicity here. People from the mainland tend to think we're in a wee world of our own." He spoke enthusiastically about the local rock talent in the Western Isles, notably a band called Astrid who toured recently with Sean Lennon. They are unrelated to the former Goya Dress vocalist of

the same name who, confusingly, will not only support Frame on tour this month but is herself something of a musical outlander, having been born on Shetland.

The morning after the show, assorted jaded London townies drove across the island, past the ruined crofters' cottages and the neatly trimmed sods of peat left for gathering. Marvelling at a landscape of such stark loveliness, we walked among the mysterious monoliths of the celebrated Callanish standing stones. Frame and his cameraman made the most of the occasion. "We got some great Super-8 footage up there," Frame said, adding, with severe understatement: "It was a little bit windy. I was glad I didn't have the quiff any more."

As he treads more familiar boards over the next few days, Frame will be fuelled by fond memories of his 24 hours in the Scottish boondocks. "For years, I've been cornered in hotel bars by Americans telling me how beautiful Scotland is," he said. "Now I'll have something to tell them."

● The North Star is released by Independent. Roddy Frame plays Manchester MDH tonight, Sheffield Leadmill tomorrow, Glasgow Fruit Market (Nov 23) and Aberdeen Lemon Tree (Nov 24)

Advertisement for Bruce Springsteen TRACKS. Includes text: "There's scarcely anything here that any of his peers wouldn't have been happy to put out - and a good deal they would have been thrilled to see their name on." MOJO. "The unreleased songs from TRACKS are sometimes better than the ones he did release" THE GUARDIAN. "Anyone who doubts his worth should try TRACKS" SUNDAY TIMES. "... a captivating rock retrospective." DAILY MAIL.

Advertisement for Harry Hill "First Class Scamp". Includes text: "British Comedy Award Winner for the Best New Comedy Show". "Featuring stand-up from The Debonnaire Dachshund himself as he performs live on London's Premier West End stage, at the end of his 1998 sell-out tour." "Special presentation pack OUT NOW ON VIDEO".

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page. Includes text: "POP ALBUMS", "The clear his old", "TOP TEN ALBUMS", "HARD TIMES".

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POP ALBUMS

Springsteen trifles

The Boss clears out his old files

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN Tracks (Columbia COL 492605; four discs £34.99)

AS THE British chart succumbs to the seasonal deluge of Greatest Hits albums, you begin to wonder if any of the world's major pop acts are going to release anything new ever again.

More insidious, but just as commonplace, has been the rise of the "rarities" compilation, usually a chance to smuggle into the shops a raft of old material ranging from the marginally standard to the unacceptable.

As with most things to do with rock'n'roll, the idea took root with Elvis Presley, but only really flourished after the overwhelming success of the Beatles' Anthology series.

Now everyone is at it. Although Bruce Springsteen's Tracks is a superior example of the genre, it conforms to the established guidelines which are basically: 1) less quality, more quantity and 2) the more doubtful the provenance of the music, the more lavish the packaging.

So Tracks is a 66-track, four-disc set, enveloped in a lush bed of folding laminated cardboard. The musical journey stretches from the audition recordings that secured Springsteen his recording contract in 1972 — just a Dylan-influenced voice, a lot of words and an approximately strummed acoustic guitar — to a less verbose number called Gave it a Name, recorded just three months ago.

The majority of the tracks have never been released before, but so prodigious is Springsteen's output that he has not had to include any fouled-up performances or bits of Lennon-esque studio banter to top up the package. Some tracks are "understud-

NEW POP ALBUMS

ies" of songs that made it on to the finished albums (Zero and Blind Terry, for instance, is an unmistakably close relation of Rosalita); others were sidelined because they did not fit the mood of a particular album or period — and some were simply not good enough then and, unsurprisingly, are no better now.

Springsteen calls these songs the "ones that got away", and there is plenty here for his students to pore over and admire. But at the end of the day, Tracks is more about filling the gaps in his release schedule than adding to our enjoyment of his work.

GOLDIE Ring of Saturn (ffrr/London 570 353 £6.66)

RETREATING somewhat from the over-extended tedium of his double-album, Saturnz-retum, released earlier this year, Goldie attempts to get back on track with Ring of Saturn, a short album that holds out the smallest of olive branches to those not wholly immersed in the infinite groove that is drum'n'bass.

The opening track is a reprise of his hour-long opus, Mother, boiled down to a more manageable seven minutes, which is what he should have done with it in the first place. What You Won't Do For Love (Radio Edit), featuring the warm, jazzy vocals of his long-time associate Diane Charlemagne, is an excursion

into the more accessible realms currently being explored by his former record label colleagues 4 Hero.

But other tracks such as Flyna 1 and Kaiser Salsek, with their minimalist rhythm tracks and harsh, repetitive haunted-house noises are less forgiving and less interesting. It seems that despite his pioneering credentials, Goldie is now happy to remain stuck in a hardcore ghetto.

KIRK FRANKLIN The Nu Nation Project (Gospo Central/Interscope IND 90178 £15.99)

"AT THE name of Jesus every knee has got to bow/You don't have to wait until the fire comes/You can go on and shout and praise Him right now." Yes indeed. Kirk Franklin is a singer who takes his gospel message seriously and literally. He is also a star of impeccably modern credentials in soul and hip hop circles, a man who can recruit R. Kelly, Mary J. Blige and, er, Bono to assist on his song Lean on Me, turning it into such a show-boating tour de force that you almost forget what a terrible dirge it actually is.

Elsewhere, on Riverside and If You've Been Delivered, Franklin and his army of backing singers harness their voices to some mighty funk grooves, the sheer zeal of their performances sending the energy level shooting off the scale.

HELL Munich Machine (Disko B/V2/VVRI00318 £14.99)

HELL is the nom du deks of German techno star Helmut Geier, a DJ who combines sleek Teutonic house and electro rhythm tracks with a warped but plainly detectable sense of drama and humour. The influence of Kraftwerk and Giorgio Moroder pervades Munich Machine, but Hell puts a distinctly 1990s spin on numbers such as Dom-inatrix, with its ice-queen vol-cuever, and on his eccentric cut-and-paste versions of songs previously performed by artists as diverse as Grace Jones (Warm Leatherette) and Barry Manilow (Cops).

DAVID SINCLAIR

CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 (2) Ladies & Gentlemen — the Best Of — George Michael (Epic)
2 (5) The Best of Bob Dylan — Robbie Williams (Crysalis)
3 (8) Talk on Corners — The Corrs (Atlantic)
4 (4) The Best of — M People (M People)
5 (21) The Best of 1980-1990 — U2 (Island)
6 (3) The Millennium — Oasis (Creston)
7 (31) One Night Only — Bee Gees (Polydor)
8 (1) The Best of 1980-1990 & Beyond — U2 (Island)
9 (20) Modern Classics — the Greatest Hits — Paul Weller (Island)
10 (9) Hits — Phil Collins (Virgin)

COPYRIGHT CIN Figure in brackets indicates last week's position

ARTS

JAZZ ALBUMS

Herbie Hancock revisited



Bruce Springsteen's devotees will doubtless snap up the four-CD Tracks. Other record buyers are advised to be cautious

Ready steady dance

Soul music was a true child of the 1960s. At the start of the decade it had still to free itself from its gospel and vocal group roots, by the end some felt its best days were over. But what is undisputed is that the music created during that time continues to exert a huge influence.

It was heard over here in clubs like the Flamingo in London and the Twisted Wheel in Manchester. Both are remembered in new CDs. From Route 66 to the Flamingo (Stateside 496 5012) reprises such turntable hits as Barbara George's I Know and Inez and Charlie Foxx's Hurt by Love, while The Twisted Wheel Story One More Time (Goldmine GSCD112) features the Detroit rhythms of Oh How Happy by Shades of Blue and the Booker T-like Hole in the Wall by the Packers.

British record-makers were quick to produce homegrown versions of the Motown sound. The best efforts were usually by American singers

SOUL ALBUMS

resident in Britain, such as Geno Washington, or West Indians such as Jimmy James, both of whom can be heard on Dance Like The Devil (Sequel NEMCD 972) and Soul For Sale (NEMCD 975).

Back in the States, the soul music scene in the Sixties was still regional and incredibly varied. In New York, the Roulette family of labels were recording Brenda Jo Harris and Jerry Williams Jr as well as a dozen or so other artists to be heard on Doctor Good Soul (Westside WESM525) while the Jubilee label was creating one of the true classics of the era in the shape of the emotional tour de force Cry To Me by Betty Harris now to be heard on Soul Perfection Plus (Westside WESA807).

In Chicago, Barbara Acklin, the Chi-Lites and Tyrone Davis is reigned. Acklin's infectious Am I The Same Girl is on a two albums on one CD reissue, Love Makes a Woman/Seven Days of Night (Edsel DIAB 868), while the smooth harmony of the Chi-Lites on his like Oh Girl and Have You Seen Her can be found on The Highlights from The Chi-Lites (Edsel DIAB 872). Best of all is the work of Davis, a soul singer with a bluesman's voice whose superb Can I Change My Mind plus his other R&B chart hits are on Turning Back the Hands of Time (Edsel DIAB 873).

JOHN CLARKE

Hancock's finest hour

JAZZ ALBUMS

HERBIE HANCOCK The Complete Blue Note Sixties Sessions (Blue Note B2BN 7243 4 95569 2 8) Gershwin's World (Verve SST 791-2)

THOSE who complain about the relative lack of originality, spontaneity and ebullience in the 1990s jazz recorded by musicians who rose to prominence with the Blue Note label in the 1960s might be forgiven for assuming their case proven by the evidence provided on these two issues.

Herbie Hancock's Sixties Sessions collects, on six CDs in a lavishly annotated book-style box, his seven Blue Note albums, from his extraordinary debut, Takin' Off, containing Watermelon Man and featuring Dexter Gordon and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra among them, to 1969's The Prisoner, plus assorted alternative takes and Hancock

compositions from contemporaries' albums for the same company.

The pianist's latest release, Gershwin's World, is a "project" in which a selection of pieces by Gershwin and related composers is interpreted by Hancock and a series of stellar guests, Joni Mitchell, Stevie Wonder, Kathleen Battle and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra among them. As a gala concert it might have succeeded,

but as an album, with its succession of ill-assorted contributors parachuted in, it is simply unsettling, its sheer heterogeneity overwhelming.

The Blue Note sessions, by contrast, positively sparkle with freshness and enthusiasm: alongside Hancock, the likes of George Coleman, Hank Mobley, Ron Carter and Tony Williams are active, vital participants in the music rather than — as with the Verve recording — almost incidental to it, drafted in as much for the commercial impact of having their names on the album's cover sticker as for any strictly musical reasons. Hancock's early albums are still essential listening; it is hard to imagine his Gershwin project still attracting attention in 2030.

CHRIS PARKER

Clive Davis meets Eric Bibb, freebooting citizen of the 12-bar world A passport coloured blues

The most memorable blues album of 1997 did not arrive from the obvious sources. Not from the Delta, nor from Chicago's South Side, nor from the roadside bars of Texas. No, you have to look several thousand miles to the east to find Eric Bibb's adopted home.

Raised in New York, the singer has long lived the expatriate life in Stockholm, gathering together a group of local players in order to prove that modern blues music has attained the status of an international language. The album in question, Good Stuff, established him as a major contemporary voice.

His reputation advanced even further this summer when he joined his mentor Taj Mahal at a one-day heritage festival at the Barbican. Although Mahal enjoyed top billing, Bibb's soulful amalgam of traditional songs, gospel and gentle domestic ballads made an even bigger impression. With a six-piece acoustic band mixing a mandolin with steel-string guitars, he has embarked on a tour which included two nights at London's Jazz Café. It would be a pity if only hardcore blues enthusiasts turned out to hear him: his pristine vocals and fertile melodies ought to appeal to anyone raised on the singer-songwriter tradition that embraces troubadours as varied as the late Ted Hawkins, James Taylor and Joni Mitchell.

Bibb, 45, is carrying on a family tradition. His father, Leon, became one of the stalwarts of the Greenwich Village coffee house folk scene of the 1960s; his uncle, John Lewis, is leader of the hugely popular chamber group, the Modern Jazz Quartet. When

Lewis played a rare club date in London earlier this year, his nephew was in the audience. The two men are now talking about a collaboration.

"He's got some tunes he says he wants to try," Bibb explains. "I used to go to his home and be knocked out by the fact that he had two grand pianos and a harpsichord in the living room. But he's a really bluesy guy too. He'd put Muddy Waters on the record player. I'm sure most of his fans wouldn't expect that."

As a boy, Bibb grew accustomed to seeing musicians passing through the family home. The folk singer Odetta was one regular visitor, and he recalls sitting on the stairs

and enjoying a conversation with a young Bob Dylan.

He first moved to Stockholm, via Paris, in the 1970s. Invited to the city one summer, he decided to stay for a decade. Although he later returned to New York for a few years, Europe eventually drew him back again.

While putting down roots in Sweden he supplemented his income by translating children's books into English. Good Stuff, his second album for the Swedish Opus 3 label, turned its back on studio artifice, creating an exceptionally natural ambience. On one track, the gospel-flavoured Where The Green Grass Grows, a wheezing pump or-

gan was pressed into service to add a touch of revivalism, and Bibb also called on the voices of the Deacons, a gospel quartet who had been prominent on his earlier disc, Spirit and the Blues.

The one false step he has made so far was a misconceived electric album, Me to You. Released last year on Warners' Code Blue label, it drained all the individuality out of his songs in a vain quest for commercial airplay.

Happily, the band he is taking on the road will return to the Good Stuff format. The spiritual element is particularly close to his heart. "There used to be a lot of blues fanatics who didn't like it, but I find people are more and more receptive now," he says. "The die-hards have these preconceptions about the music — it's as if I've got to dress a certain way and drink certain stuff."

The funny thing is that a lot of their old heroes, going back as far as the 1920s, had a much more mixed repertoire. The recording industry had a lot to do with restricting their output to suit their idea of what the blues were — miserable songs played by half-drunk musicians who were likely to forget to ask to be paid."

The real world, he argues, was much more eclectic. Bibb remains true to tradition in his own way. All he needs is an audience willing to open its ears.



Born in New York but long resident in Stockholm, guitarist Eric Bibb is now winning fans in Britain

Christmas on the street — or safe at St Mungo's?



It probably says a lot about St Mungo's that when we take people off the street, we find room for their best friend too. We make it our policy not to turn anyone away from our hostels if it can be avoided. Being in St Mungo's means a clean, warm bed in a safe haven. And once we accept people we do all we can to rehabilitate, retrain and resettle them. In providing accommodation for over 1000 people a night St Mungo's has set itself very high standards indeed. Will you help us to maintain those standards? We'd be grateful and so would homeless people in London, not to mention their dogs. Please send whatever you can afford, with the coupon below.

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Please tick if you prefer us not to pass on your details to other charities

Vertical advertisement on the left side of the page. It includes text like 'LIVE GIG', 'convincing Imbruglia', 'ome', 'rm', 'ck', and 'HALL'. There is also a small image of a person's face at the top.

Advertisement for NSPCC. It features the NSPCC logo and text: 'Christopher Tooley & Peter Penny present A Gala Concert Production of HARD TIMES A Dickens of a Musical'. It lists names of performers like Roy Hudd, Jeff Shankley, Bill Home Wood, Angela Richards, Susan Jane Fanner, Malcolm Rennie, Peter Blake, Jan Graveson, Lisa Storke, Anna Rubble, Simon Knight, Matthew Storey, Graham Mackay, Bruce, and Tim Kirby. It also mentions 'and a mystery guest star'.

LISTINGS

Wooster Group in Belfast

RECOMMENDED TODAY
Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargle
LONDON
ORCHESTRA OF THE 18TH CENTURY...



Frans Bruggen makes his Barbican debut

BIRTHDAY CONCERT: The eminent British organist...
ELSEWHERE
Belfast: The experimental New York theatre company...

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre shows in London
THE BEST OF TIMES: The Bridwell Theatre's programme...

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies
NEW RELEASES
ANGEL SHARKS (15): Hectic, fleshy French film...

ARTS

Pretty powerful little Hitler

First there was Bi-noche, then Neeson, then Spacy, then Kidman...
from a Huddersfield art gallery, and blackmailed. You have to suspend your disbelief...



Alight with resentment: Ewan McGregor as the vengeful student Malcolm Scrawdyke in David Halliwell's Sixties play

THEATRE

girl he fancies. He must be shy with women, and he must suggest that sexual frustration partly explains rhetoric that gets more murderous by the moment...

Benedict Nightingale

WITH Tippett's last orchestral score, Strauss's Four Last Songs and Brahms's final symphony on the programme...

Vintage creative vitality

With Tippett's last orchestral score, Strauss's Four Last Songs and Brahms's final symphony on the programme...

Flouncy boys will be boys

Set in the depths of a gay brothel in Earls Court, Andrew Pagan's play turns out to be a weaker work than his three predecessors in the Soho Theatre Company's current season...

ART GALLERIES
THEATRES
OPERA & BALLET
THEATRES

THEATRES
CLASSICAL CONCERTS
ST. JOHN'S, SMITH SQUARE

And finally... Football goes to... Place you...

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DAY NOVEMBER 20 1998
MUSIC
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Hitler

And finally, the ITC says goodbye to News at Ten

Nobody wants to see the end of *News at Ten*. It has been part of millions of viewers' personal schedules for more than 30 years. Its presenters, or newscasters as they like to be called, became celebrities in their own right, whether drunk or sober.

ITN's flagship news programme has also been much more innovative over the years than the BBC and achieved a more human touch while still covering the big stories of the day. But while it will get few public plaudits, the Independent Television Commission was right yesterday to switch off *News at Ten*'s life-support system and allow the ITV companies to modernise their schedule.

Politicians have already condemned the ITC, mainly because they like a live news programme that covers the highlights of their often tedious trade. Some have tried to interfere outrageously in what is solely a matter for the ITC. Some viewers, including influential, letter-writing ones, will see the move as a turning point in British television, as a threat to democracy, even. Others, anonymous but still numerous, will welcome the fact that feature films or long dramas on ITV will no longer be cut in half by 40 minutes of national and regional news every weeknight and new adult comedies and documentaries can be introduced into the schedule. *News at Ten* has become a soft target for other

broadcasters pitting some of their best entertainment against it for 25 per cent of the audience, the bongos of Big Ben were a cue to switch over.

The ITC is right because it must take into account not the fate of just one programme, but the health of the entire ITV system, which risks losing audience share in an increasingly competitive environment. A strong, financially secure ITV, able to raise its investment in original British production, is in the interests of the industry and viewers.

The days when you could fight to the death to protect the position of



ROYALTY AND SNOODLEY

most until the problems become really pressing. But it is wiser to tackle the issue now and allow ITV to change a schedule that has been preserved in spite because of "immovable" fixed points such as *Coronation Street* and *News at Ten*.

The ITC's decision means that its responsibilities become more onerous, not less. It must ensure that the ITV companies do not see what has happened as a licence to print money, or an excuse for providing a less comprehensive news service. This point will become even more relevant next week when the ITC announces a significant cut, for

most ITV companies, in the special taxes they pay to the Government for their licences.

The commission is right to insist on a more diverse schedule and no diminution of the commitment to both public service values and high-quality news.

The ITC's agreed review of the change in a year's time should be a searching one.

In particular, the ITC has to watch like a hawk to ensure that the 6.30 programme does not become a fluffy teatime production. For most ITV viewers it will be their main TV news programme, and should be seen as a new opportunity to explain the dangers and opportunities of an increasingly interdependent world to those who

will be affected by them — ie, everyone.

Apart from news headlines at ten, there should be a new commitment to interrupting programmes briefly to keep viewers up to date with big breaking stories. Above all, there must be a serious financial and editorial commitment to the planned *News at Eleven*. With proper attention it could become the most important news programme of the day, a summing-up, including the most up-to-date information from the US.

It is more a matter for ITN rather than the ITC, but it would be rather nice if, in a nod towards tradition and continuity, the new programme were opened by 11 bongos from Big Ben.

Football's clash with the snappers goes to extra time

The crisis between newspapers and the Premier League has been delayed, not solved, says Carol Midgley



Fleet Street's football photographers have been granted a temporary reprieve. Come Saturday, they and their long lenses will not, after all, be turfed out of Premier League grounds as many an anxious picture editor had feared.

Thanks to a last-chance meeting on Tuesday between Nicholas Rudd-Jones, the chairman of the Newspaper Publishers' Association, and Peter Leaver, the chief executive of the league, a two-week stay of execution has been agreed.

This is the latest development in a lengthening struggle between newspapers and the Premier League over who should control the use of pictures taken at league matches. Further talks will now be held in an attempt to break the deadlock.

Although the crisis has been delayed, it is by no means solved. In earlier talks clubs have been adamant that newspapers should no longer be able to "exploit" or "distort" photographs without asking permission. They claim that the image of Premiership football is being damaged by newspapers using pictures of players — its prime assets — in a

cheap, embarrassing or overly commercial way.

Many members of the NPA, however, are equally adamant that to surrender too much editorial freedom puts them on an extremely slippery slope.

If the NPA signs the new league contract (the old one expired last Saturday), it will mean the end of famously jokey images like *The Sun's* portrayal of the former England manager Graham Taylor as a turnip-head, and its recent spread which had 11 soccer stars kitted out in stockings and suspenders. This was a play on Ruud Gullit's phrase "sexy football", inspired by a Channel 5 poster of David Batty in high heels, stockings and a Newcastle United shirt.

Under the new rule, *The Sun* would have had to telephone each club and ask permission to put each player in stockings. Apart from restrictions of time, it is a fairly safe bet that permission would usually be refused. And while the average reader might not con-

sider that a catastrophic loss to journalism, there are more serious issues at stake.

One picture agency, Empics, has been suspended from entering Premier League grounds for the past three weeks because one of its pictures of the Liverpool striker Michael Owen was bought by *The Daily Telegraph* and turned into a full-page poster spread in its supplement, *Young Telegraph*.

Liverpool FC complained that it had been planning to produce a similar poster a week later, and that the commercial value of its project had been damaged.

Empics' owner, Phil O'Brien, says he is "baffled" when it did not know how its picture was going to be used.

"I don't know whether we are being used as an example to show the NPA what can happen, but it's possible," he says. "We are a supplier, not a publisher. The Premier League has said that we should not supply pictures for posters —

which we don't. We never suspected that a double-page spread in a newspaper would be a poster.

"I don't think that any photo agencies object to what the Premier League is trying to achieve. We understand that clubs have huge wage bills to pay, and want to use their assets as best they can."

He said that both newspapers and clubs had been sympathetic to his plight, adding: "All we want is to get back to normal."

Certain individuals, such as impresarios staging concerts, already impose restrictions on how pictures are used. The Royal Shakespeare Company is also trying to assert more control over pictures from its performances.

The NPA's most recent contract with the league already prohibited newspapers from selling or syndicating posters, calendars, collector's cards and stickers for commercial use, but until now editors have been free to use pictures as they wish in the pages of their newspapers.

Some picture editors have spoken of hitting back by denying the Premiership exposure and organising a campaign against the new restrictions. If



The Sun's "sexy football" spread, top, and the Young Telegraph Michael Owen poster

newspaper photographers do end up with the red card, picture desks could use photographs supplied by agencies who have signed the contract — but that might defeat the object. At present there is still hope of an amicable solution.

A spokesman for the Premier League said: "There has been a proposed new agreement with a number of agencies to stop certain forms of exploitation and manipulation of photographs without prior permission."

"Certain photographs have been used recently in a way which breaches what we

would regard as acceptable.

"If newspapers want to make particular use of photographs, all they have to do is ask permission and the likelihood is that it would be granted. Rather than each club receiving lots of calls from individual agencies, they would ring us."

"We are merely putting in an additional safeguard to ensure there is no over-manipulation of pictures, and we hope that people will sign."

Andrew Moger, the picture editor of *The Times*, said that the restrictions posed no threat to the standard use of

sports pictures. But he added: "During negotiations it has become clear that many clubs would want control over pictures being used in, for example, newspaper competitions, full-page posters and certain promotions."

"They have also raised concern at what they regard as 'horrendous image manipulation'. The concern to all picture editors is the encroachment into normal areas of newsroom activity. The broader issue is that if we relinquish editorial and commercial freedom to the Premier League, it is the thin end of the wedge."

Gibson takes a gamble

Mel Gibson, the Hollywood actor best-known for his roles in *Braveheart* and *Lethal Weapon*, is setting up a film distribution company in Britain, *Chris Ayres* writes.

The 42-year-old, who was born in New York but who grew up in Australia, plans to expand his interest in the notoriously risky movie industry with a company called Icon Film Distribution. He has already poached Nick Hill, an executive at the French film group Pathé, to manage the company, which will begin trading early next year. Mr Gibson's long-term business partner Bruce Davey, will become chairman.

The first films to be distributed by Icon will include *The Million Dollar Hotel* — the much-delayed project involving the U2 singer Bono and the arthouse director Wim Wenders — and *An Ordinary Decent Criminal*, starring Kevin Spacey and Helen Bonendale.

Mr Gibson's first move into the business world was in 1989, when he set up a company with Mr Davey called Icon Productions, mainly to produce the actor's version of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. The company ended up producing a string of films starring Gibson, including *Forever Young*, *The Man Without a Face* and *Braveheart*.

Now Gibson feels that he can make more money by setting up his own company to distribute Icon's films in the UK. According to recent reports, he has no shortage of cash to invest in Icon, having received an estimated \$50 million (£30 million) for appearing in *Lethal Weapon 4*.

The business of film distribution is complex. A distribution company buys the rights to films, then charges companies such as Odeon and Virgin to show them in their cinemas. Most distribution companies pay for all marketing and publicity campaigns for the films to which they own the rights.

Hill says: "The risk is buy-



Mel Gibson: new venture

ing the rights, spending a lot of money on an advertising campaign, then waiting a long time to recoup the initial outlay. But there is also the opportunity to release the film on video and to sell the rights to broadcasters."

When a film succeeds, however, distribution companies can negotiate high percentages of box-office revenues and make an almost instant killing. "It is a high-risk, high-return business," Hill says.

PolyGram, the Dutch entertainment company, spent more than \$1 billion (about £600 million) building up a film business, a significant part of which was distribution, over eight years, but still failed to make a profit. The company was sold earlier this year, and a question mark still hangs over the future of its film division, *PolyGram Filmed Entertainment*.

Place your bets on the Channel 4 tick-tack men



Bold as brass: Natasha Little as Becky Sharp in *Vanity Fair*

■ CHANNEL 4's broadcasting ambitions do not stop at snatching cricket from the BBC or launching a new film subscription channel. It is exploring the possibility of launching a subscription racing channel partly financed by interactive betting.

The tick-tack men at Channel 4 have already got the informal nod from the Independent Television Commission (ITC) but the Home Office, which is in charge of gambling legislation, doesn't like the idea. The bookies won't be overjoyed, either.

But don't bet against Channel 4 finding a way to serve some potentially very lucrative minority interests.

■ PUFFS of white smoke are finally emerging from Emap Metro, which is gearing up for its largest magazine launch. About £5 million has gone into "Project J", a national listing magazine which has been a year in gestation. I hear it will be a 120-page weekly, pitched at being a *Radio Times* for the under-40s with TV and entertainment listings. But what will be the name? The current

working title is *Pulp*, which is unpopular with the troops. They suggest that it has been called Project J for so long it might as well stay.

■ I HEAR that *CeeFax*, the trusty BBC service of 25 years, is about to be shorn of its name. It's being rechristened BBC Digital Text — how that limps off the tongue — as part of the digital revamp.

■ THE rival ITV service, Teletext, is demonstrating its sleek new digital look: the only problem, no one can receive it at home. On Digital's first boxes were rushed to the shops for Christmas before the Teletext software was ready, says Graham Lovelace, its editor. Nor will digital teletext be on SkyDigital for the foreseeable future — the systems are incompatible.

And a word of advice for sports addicts weighing up which system to sign up to: be aware that Test cricket this

winter is on Sky Sports 2, one of the premium channels which is not part of the OnDigital package.

■ MURRAY GOLD'S brass band music for the BBC TV series *Vanity Fair*, with its discordant energy, has become

■ AS a senior BBC News executive, Bob Wheaton's craggy good looks won him the off-screen devotion of several of his protégés, most famously Jill Dando. Now self-employed, he has won a contract to search for new BBC talent. More blonde presenters?

One male journalist already approached says: "BBC News recognised his skills and is relying on him to find more interesting reporters and correspondents." Especially for a relaunched *Six O'Clock News*.

The present ones are deemed unexciting, though they are often simply so harassed serving the different outlets that they forget to comb their hair. Wheaton is going to search regional TV, Sky, media schools and universities for new talent.

Now he has formed the *Vanity Fair* Band, made of 20 musicians with himself on piano.

"We said from the start we didn't want to sound like session musicians." After *Vanity Fair* ends, the band continues.

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■ DR STEPHEN COLEMAN, the director of studies for the Hansard Society, pressed Sir John Birt about the BBC's lofty ambitions to harness the Internet and e-mail to involve viewers in big public debates, when he spoke at the Voice of the Listeners' and Viewers' Conference on Wednesday. As Coleman observed, the BBC's online interactive sites are hardly cause for optimism: one is devoted to cooking tips, the other to soaps. But don't worry, Sir John promised "a new set of community interest sites. We'll do this next."

Coleman was unimpressed. He says current plans include inviting viewers to suggest alternative endings for soaps.

■ THE Evening Standard has concluded that the departure of Isabel Hilton from Radio 4's flagship *The World Tonight* was down to the men in grey suits. Not so. The veteran presenter was moved on by two female executives, the job-sharing Prue Keely and Jenni Russell, who are joint editors of the programme. Women in grey suits, more like.

media times

Should Rosie take the rap?

An internal inquiry by Rosie Boycott at the Express, after a controversial story about Peter Mandelson, has raised accusations of a witch-hunt and political interference — and put a fellow editor's job on the line

Editors are always the last to know when they are being fired but only rarely do they discover from the columns of *The Spectator* that their job is in danger. That was the destabilising experience yesterday of Amanda Platell, Editor of *The Express on Sunday*, who discovered from *The Spectator* that her job had been offered this week to Sarah Sands, Deputy Editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, who had turned it down.

The approach to Sands suggests that the management of Express Newspapers have decided to make Platell the scapegoat for the publication of a story in *The Express on Sunday* three weeks ago about a friendship between the Cabinet minister Peter Mandelson and a Brazilian student, Reinaldo Avila da Silva, which appeared at the end of a week in which Mandelson had been outed by Matthew Parris as a homosexual.

Mandelson, who prefers not to discuss his sexuality, was outraged by this intrusion into his private life in a story that was full of innuendo and made his displeasure known, especially to Rosie Boycott, Editor-in-Chief of *The Express* and *The Express on Sunday*. She initiated an internal inquiry by one of her most senior colleagues, Managing Editor Lindsay Cook, which has established to her own satisfaction that she was misled when she sanctioned the publication of the Mandelson story.

Yet the inquiry has been so controversial that staff on the Sunday paper say that Platell is now the subject of a witch-hunt aimed at finding a scapegoat to placate Mandelson. She is being "shafted", they say, and hung out to dry in an office that now has a McCarthyite atmosphere.

The Mandelson saga started on the Saturday before the story was published when he first learnt that *The Express* was pursuing a story about his friendship with da Silva, who reportedly also knew Howell James, who was John Major's political secretary.

He contacted Guy Black, director of the Press Complaints Commission, and Lord Wakeham, the chairman; Boycott, who had initially been "thrilled" about the story, was warned about Mandelson's anxieties. On her instruction, Cook rang the

office to investigate how the story had been obtained. It had been proposed by Andrew Pierce, Associate Editor, and da Silva had been traced in Tokyo by John Chapman, an Express investigative reporter who was accompanied by an English interpreter. Cook asked two main questions: had Chapman identified himself and had da Silva willingly posed for the photographer? Someone at the office gave the answer yes to both.

Meanwhile, Clive Hollick, the Express proprietor and Labour life peer, had made four calls to the Express newsdesk and Mandelson had delivered a handwritten note to Boycott, who is a neighbour. On the basis that da Silva had talked willingly and the story obtained honestly, Boycott decided that the story should be published, but insisted that it was read to Mandelson, who was to have the final say on what appeared. Substantial cuts were made.

Boycott instructed that the story should be placed inside the paper and that a photograph of da Silva should not be published on the front page. It appeared on page 7 under the headline "Brazilian student who is Mandelson's close friend" — but was also sold across the top of the front page in inch-high type as "Peter's friend".

The role of Mandelson, who represented the Government in Brazil in July and who was due to go again this month until he pulled out yesterday, is arousing controversy, with accusations that he is seeking to interfere in the editorial management of the paper and that it is he who is seeking a scapegoat.

It is that question — of how the story was obtained — that has been the subject of the internal Express inquiry. Cook established that Chapman did not identify himself as an Express reporter when he invited da Silva for a drink but only after they got to a hotel. Da Silva had said he did not want to talk about Mandelson without talking to him first. Da Silva had also refused to pose for a photograph. One shot had been taken in which he had raised his hand to obscure his face. Yet the inquiry discovered that his hand had been airbrushed out of the picture that appeared in the paper — and that the follow-



Rosie Boycott has found herself under pressure since *The Express on Sunday* published its Mandelson story. Her inquiry has simply fanned the flames

ing week the photograph had disappeared from the office.

Boycott has concluded that she did not get honest answers to her questions and that the *Express on Sunday* report was unethical. Platell was not returning calls yesterday but that version of what happened in Tokyo is disputed by Platell's own staff. They say that da Silva stayed drinking with Chapman, who was with

him the subject of still more controversy. There are also serious questions about the method used by Boycott to investigate how the Mandelson story was obtained. With an editor's reputation at stake, an independent Ombudsman would have been a better solution than a senior colleague who was unlikely to return with a report that did not satisfy her editor.

Also at stake at the Express is the ques-

tion of the responsibility of editors for what appears in their papers, especially if they are editor-in-chief of a seven-day operation. Every day editors delegate hundreds of decisions to executives and expect to take the rap if those decisions are wrong. As editors get the glory, so they get the blame. Since Boycott sanctioned the Mandelson story, ought she not to take the rap rather than seeking to spread the blame?



Rosie Boycott

In search of the Tory Campbell

William Hague is going cold on the idea that he needs a personal image makeover. Hardly surprising, as he has just invested in a fresh wardrobe and has neither the cash nor the inclination to splash out on another range of trendy suits.

The Conservative leader has no doubt, however, that his party is badly in need of a brighter image if it is ever to start making inroads into Labour's stubbornly gargantuan lead in the opinion polls.

But the hunt for a man, or woman, to add sparkle to the Opposition's PR has so far proved a mission impossible for Hague and his senior apparatchiks, as they cast their net among senior journalists in an attempt to land a Tory miracle worker.

The Central Office hierarchy is seeking an answer to Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's confidant and chief press secretary. Unfortunately for them, Campbell, ruthlessly professional and dedicated to the cause, is from a rare breed. When Tony Blair asked his friend to take on the job of transforming him into the occupant of No 10, he knew he was dealing not with a political journalist but with a journalist politician who had dedicated most of his adult life to propagandising for Labour.

The shortlist for Campbell's mirror image was drawn up by Archie Norman, the Tory chief executive. And it was very short indeed. The former Editor of *The Sunday Times*, Andrew Neil, was barely worth approaching, having bigger fish to fry with his television career and the expanding newspaper interests of the reclusive Barclay twins.

Trevor Kavanagh, the respected

Hague needs a tough press and PR chief. No takers yet, says Chris Buckland

political editor of *The Sun*, could be forgiven for believing that he already had a job which was more rewarding — and more influential. On the several occasions when he was sounded out, he left senior Tories in no doubt about that.

This left Jonathan Holborow, the former Editor of *The Mail on Sunday*, who recently received a reputed £900,000 payoff. He was approached by Norman and expressed interest in helping out his friend William Hague by taking on the post of director of communications, if the price was right.

Initially money was no object, with the Conservatives' biggest backer, the financier Michael Ashcroft, said to be willing to pay over £150,000 a year for the right person — much more than Campbell's £91,000. Yet, strangely, after Holborow and Hague had met to discuss the job, Norman began mentioning "money problems".

So, last Wednesday, as members of the Central Office press department stood nervously by their desks, awaiting the announcement of a new boss, the whole deal crumbled. According to the official line, it was "by mutual agreement".

Then it became known that Hague's personal press secretary, 30-year-old Gregor Mackay — who days earlier was being portrayed as

the main casualty of any changes — would be taking a broader role, overseeing the whole communications re-knit. Fresh recruits will also be sought to patrol the press corps in Parliament, to staff a Labour-style "rapid rebuttals unit" and to spice up the regions.

But what went wrong with the masterplan to appoint Holborow? His opponents in Central Office claim that he lacks the temperament for the job and that, at 55, he is too old. One of the new guard of Tory MPs explained: "Unlike Campbell, he is not known among political journalists. He was not noticeably political as an editor and did not make a habit of appearing on TV or on the radio."

Holborow supporters, however, say that he is still in negotiations with Hague, discussing ways in which he can help the Tories to regain the support of Middle England, the very people whom *The Mail on Sunday* and its sister daily paper claim to represent.

They also allege that the Tory communications department is currently "a bit of a playpen" whose occupants fear a "big hitter" such as Holborow, with his tough style.

Whichever version is closer to the truth, there is no doubt that the Tories have failed in their attempt to find an answer to Campbell, a man whom they regard with almost mystical awe. But then, perhaps they have their priorities wrong. There are growing complaints in the party that policies are needed first. As one former Cabinet minister said: "The product should be sorted out before we start employing a high-pressure salesman."



Alastair Campbell: ruthless and utterly dedicated to the party cause

Big switch-off hits TV news

WITH the fate of *News at Ten*'s sealed, research for Broadcast shows a ratings crisis for all television news. Audiences for the main evening BBC and ITV bulletins have dropped by 11 per cent this autumn, compared with last year, while ITN's early evening news was down by 13 per cent. *News at Ten*, with 5.4 million viewers, is still ahead of the BBC's *Nine O'Clock News*, with five million.

A NEW magazine for teenage boys has been removed from the shelves of Sainsbury and Asda, report *Marketing and Marketing Week*. *Front*, aimed at youths from 16 to 18, is published by Cabal, the new publishing house headed by former magazine editor Sally O'Sullivan. Last month's issue had pictures of topless women and an article on pornography. Sainsbury reported hundreds of complaints and an Asda spokeswoman said the content was "rather less than appropriate". Neither chain will stock the second issue, even though Cabal says it has been toned down.

WAR is about to break out in the formerly staid world of legal publishing. *Press Gazette* reports that the former Editor and publisher of *The Lawyer* have quit to launch a rival magazine, *Legal Week*, and have taken nine staff from *The Lawyer* with them. *Legal Week* will be published by a new company, Global and Professional Media, 51 per cent owned by its staff.

THE Ministry of Sound, the nightclub and marketing company, and British American Tobacco are close to striking a deal. *Marketing* says the two would join forces to promote BAT cigarette brands in Europe and Asia, especially China and Russia. With the European Union likely to introduce more restraints on cigarette promotion, Eastern Europe and Asia are their biggest potential growth areas. These are also the countries where the

Ministry of Sound's brand of music is growing in popularity.

THERE is wide coverage of forthcoming changes at *The Observer* following the August appointment of Roger Alton as Editor. Three new tabloid sections are to be introduced on January 3, covering travel, personal finance, and television and film. *Media Week* says the moves are "aimed at arresting sliding circulation figures". In the six months ended last October, sales were 11.5 per cent down on the previous year's figures and now barely top 400,000. Market share is down from 15.3 to 13.5 per cent.

THIS week's launch of ONdigital, the terrestrial digital television service, was bedevilled by a shortage of set-top boxes. *Media Week* reports. Although the company said there were tens of thousands of boxes available in the shops, it has admitted that there are unlikely to be enough to meet the pre-Christmas demand. Channel 5, which was originally to have been on the ONdigital menu, is not yet available because negotiations have not been wrapped up.

Campaign reports that although 37 per cent of people had seen advertisements for ONdigital before the service launched, only one in ten knew could say what it was. When Sky Digital launched a few weeks ago 41 per cent of people had understood the message.

THE last word in market research is reported by *Marketing*. It involves researchers living with a family for several days to record their every move on video and thus "gaining unique insights into consumer behaviour". The researchers discover not just what goods people buy, but how they use them in the home. To make up for the intrusion, families who agree to such close scrutiny will be paid £100 a day.

MICHAEL LEAPMAN

WHEN marketing people have nothing better to do they identify new tribes, complete with their own catchy acronyms. Ray Snoddy writes.

One of the most influential women in British advertising, Christine Walker, enlivened the Marketing Society's annual conference this week with a freshly minted batch.

So prepare to welcome the Panses (politically active and not seeking employment), the Sinsads

(single income, no boyfriend, absolutely desperate), the Yuppies (young affluent parents) and, last but not least, the Sitooms (single income, two children and oppressive mortgage).

Ms Walker, the managing partner in Walker Media, which is

backed by M & C Saatchi, also points a finger at the Adultescents, the readers of men's magazines such as *Loaded* who are immersed in youth culture "but should know better".

Then there are the Nipples (New Irish professionals living in Lon-

don) not to mention the Puppies (Punjabi upwardly mobile professionals). No wonder, Ms Walker points out, that the Government is planning to introduce 17 classifications in time for the next census to replace the current ABC1/C2DE social classifications.

Margaret Thatcher may have once said that there was no such thing as society — referring to the erosion of traditional communities and the growth of individualism. — but, according to Ms Walker, things have moved on since then.

Nowadays we are not so much all individuals as minorities, and even radical minorities.

"They are our new communities and they are instantly recognisable in the media," Ms Walker says.

A new crop of Panses

كنا من الأص

هكذا من الأصل

rap?



The swimsuit parade is out, but we will see the Miss World entrants frolicking in the sand and revealing a flavour of their inner selves in prerecorded, fast-cut vignettes set to music

'Horny, not corny or porny'

Channel 5 is relaunching Miss World — but will the revamp live up to its promises? Rajan Datar reports

Miss Brazil is clearly ill at ease. Perched on a chair under the mid-day sun in the Seychelles, she knows that this is her chance to project her personality to a global audience of hundreds of millions. Encircling her are make-up artists, camera crews, producers, fixers and chaperones. She has been told to be natural, spontaneous, individual.

Someone toys with her hair, another urges her to relax more, perhaps lose the forced smile. The camera rolls again and the director lobs her an easy question: what does she enjoy doing when she goes to the beach? She answers in Portuguese and the translation comes back: she likes to ride inflatable, motorised bananas.

There's a stunned silence as the entourage gawp at each other. Does she really mean that? They start again.

Welcome to the revamped Miss World, 1998-style. Mocked, reviled and dismissed in some parts of the world — particularly in Britain — it has been dragged into the modern world and, on a promise that the contestants will be portrayed as confident, streetwise young women. Channel 5 has risked its reputation and money by returning it to UK terrestrial TV after a ten-year absence.

Channel 5 will not disclose exactly how much it has forked out for exclusive rights. Adam Perry, the head of special events, does admit, though, that lumped in with its marketing and promotions budget, it stands as one of its most expensive projects ever. "I thought what a great

time to do Miss World! It struck me that there's a generation that hasn't seen Miss World yet who have grown up with the Lad-Mag phenomenon, and the cult of the supermodel, which have filled the vacuum."

The channel is making sure it gets full mileage, though, with a preview show the night before the contest, then the show itself, broadcast next Thursday, and, three days later, a highlights programme.

According to Perry, any criticism of the channel digging up old ideas to make up for a paucity of imagination is misplaced. "It fits in our schedule because it's a mainstream event. We are not a niche broadcaster — we want to compete with BBC 1 and ITV. Our forte is putting a bit of a spin on popular entertainment, as we do with, say, Melinda Messenger."

Ms Messenger will be absent from this year's show — it appears that she might be too raunchy even for the updated Miss World. In a balancing act, designed not to alienate traditional viewers, the emphasis is on modernisation rather than liberalisation. "Horny, but not corny or porny," is the charming, unofficial mantra being bandied around the 150-strong, mainly British, production team, hired by Initial, the renowned organisers of live TV spectacles.

According to Julie Clive, the show's first female producer, revolution cannot be a thieved overnight. "Although

expectations are fantastically high," she points out, "it has to be remembered that this event has run for 47 years and we can't change everything. It's like turning a huge steamer around in the middle of an ocean."

There are some significant changes to the format this year. Out goes the demeaning swimsuit and stiletto parade. Also gone is the national costumes sequence. And the demeaning interviews in broken English have been removed too. Instead, the contestants reveal a flavour of their inner selves in prerecorded, fast-cut vignettes set to dance music.

Ronan Keating of Boyzone will be compere. "He's very accessible to a lot of people and he's not going to put a vicious spin on it," says Julie Clive. "This is not Terry Wogan and the Eurovision Song Contest revisited." So there will be no throwback to the heady days of 1974 when a frustrated Michael Aspel, in his last appearance as presenter, asked contestants what they thought of world inflation.

The biggest change, however, will be in tone rather than content. The term most commonly bandied around is that the show will be "MTV-ised". Many of the production team have worked for the cable music station and the co-presenter, Eden, is a regular on MTV. Hamilton is keen to play down the connec-

tion. "I think saying it's been 'MTV-ised' is selling it short. MTV gives a glamorous overview but not necessarily any insight. We have to draw out the differences between the women. The best parallel I would draw is *Baywatch*. There's a fine line between sleazy voyeurism and light entertainment. We're shooting the women on the beach enjoying themselves."

Hamilton's instructions have been to catch the women on camera when they are at their most spontaneous. "We chose eight beach activities, from volleyball to swimming. After five minutes the girls forget the cameras are rolling."

To understand the task facing Hamilton and Clive you have to appreciate the looming shadow of the ancient regime of Miss World. This includes the persisting influence of the Morley family, who invented the competition in 1951, and still own the licence. Although the project is essentially sub-let to a Seychelles Government Miss World consortium, the Morleys retain a pervasive power over the girls themselves.

Despite a united front from all involved in the Miss World 1998 project, some cracks are beginning to show. The chaperones, who act as guardians of the Morley tradition of beauty pageantry, find it hard to accommodate the "beach-babe" culture of the production team. Poor Miss Hong Kong is sent back three

times to change her outfits, caught in a tug of war between the two schools.

Many of the girls, while expressing enthusiasm for the new image, are clearly unsure how to act. They know that saying they want to work with small children and animals is naïf, but what do you say instead?

The most popular line is that beauty is within as much as without. Miss Malaysia, an articulate actress with a perfect Australian accent, explained that she wanted people to see that Miss World can be a forum for "intelligent developed women."

"When I watch the old Miss World shows I cringe," she says. "You can't just stick pretty women on TV any more and hope people accept it."

But behind the scenes, a three-way tug of war is being fought between the Morleys, the production team and the Seychelles Government. Each has its own agenda.

The Morleys have fought hard to retain as much as possible of their original concept of Miss World. The Seychelles Government, which has put £1.2 million into the project, sees the contest as an excellent platform for upmarket tourism. (Initial has filmed clips around the Seychelles to insert into the live broadcast.)

Which leaves Channel 5 and the Initial production team soldiering on with their vision of a contemporary, non-exploitative celebration of femininity. And both are adamant that the criticism of Miss World as outdated, tacky and sexist will be redundant after this year's contest.

Newspapers: the client from hell

WHEN *The Independent* dumped its ad agency, Lowe Howard-Spink, this week there was surprise around town, but not too much. Eyebrows were raised only because the paper's management already had another agency lined up (Euro RSCG).

Lowe lost the account after being appointed only six months ago, and after airing a well-received camera commercial for the first time last month. *The Independent* is the second newspaper account Lowe has won and lost in the past two years.

Newspaper owners vie with banks and retailers for the title of Britain's worst clients. This is not necessarily a criticism of the ads produced (though they are often dreadful) but of the truculent nature of these reluctant advertisers. I generalise, but editors are more often than not a nightmare to deal with (the late Sir David English being an exception). Starting from a position of having no respect for what advertising agencies do, they believe that they can write most of the ads better themselves. After all, they're in the creative writing business, aren't they?

Given that they produce an entire newspaper every day, they fail to understand ad agency deadlines. So they set ridiculous targets, briefing agencies late on Friday for an ad to be ready by the next afternoon. They become frustrated when the deadlines aren't met, or when they are presented with run-of-the-mill ideas.

Some editors resent having to use advertising at all, clinging to the naive belief that they can increase sales through the excellence of their journalists alone. When agencies take their high-mindedness at face value, and propose long-term branding campaigns promoting the paper's core values, the editors feel the need to puff the latest sex, celebrity and royalty scandal.

So while agencies are constantly trying to sell campaigns such as the current *Guardian* one, "for free thinkers everywhere", the publishers demand a 30-second spot for less than £50,000 to promote their new Diana tea-towels. The smarter ones, such as Associated Newspapers, know



Stefano Hatfield, Editor of Campaign

newspaper clients expose their often over-bureaucratic and hierarchical working methods. They can be guilty of being meeting-obsessed, and insisting on a £6,000-a-day photographer. The most frequent charge thrown in their faces by the newspaper publishers is that they are arrogant.

So what went wrong with *The Independent's* relationship with Lowe? The instigation is that *The Indie* was unhappy with the lack of support advertising (radio and posters in particular) for the cinema ad. The agency counters that it has the work ready to run and was the scapegoat for the paper's lack of direction. The truth is that the relationship broke down for many of the reasons explained in the generalisation above.

So why do agencies want newspaper accounts? It's not because they are particularly good payers. But they are more interesting and challenging than many other products. The constant pressure keeps agencies humming; they feel at the centre of events. Simply put: the glamour, the glamour.

● Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of Campaign.

THE LATEST newspaper circulation figures, released by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) this week, saw two new national titles join the fray.

Sunday Business, owned by the Barclay brothers, and *Sport First* (Parliamentary Communications) were included in the figures for the first time in October. Both fell short of the targets set by their publishers before launch.

Considering *Sport First's* rocky ride since, its figure of 67,000 was described by Brian King, the paper's advertising accounts director, as "a remarkable achievement".

Launched as a Sunday broadsheet in March, the paper restructured to become a

tabloid at the start of the football season. "We are still planning to expand the title slowly," says King. "And we're hoping for a circulation of about 100,000."

Sunday Business has not found life plain sailing either. The paper was relaunched under the editorship of Jeff Randall in February after its previous stakeholder, Group 2000, went into receivership.

The newspaper sold an average of around 50,000 copies a week in October, still down on its launch target of 80,000.

● MediaTel's online media information is accessed via the Internet at <http://www.mediatel.co.uk> (0171-439 7575)

	2000	2000	% Change on previous year
Daily Mail	2,343,494	1,23,285	5.6
Daily Star	650,406	80,336	11
Daily Telegraph	1,062,853	42,784	3.9
Express	1,134,719	88,654	7.2
Express On Sunday	1,046,385	115,056	9.9
Financial Times	361,699	38,051	11.8
Guardian	393,491	18,348	4.5
Independent	222,188	43,132	16.3
Inst. On Sunday	254,733	31,554	11
Mail On Sunday	2,278,506	85,101	3.9
Mirror	2,351,815	5,213	0.2
News Of The World	4,242,693	190,725	4.3
Observer	400,608	32,159	11.5
Sport First	67,106	n/a	n/a
Sun	3,698,300	121,674	3.2
Sunday Business	50,151	n/a	n/a
Sunday Mirror	2,006,776	281,137	12.3
Sunday People	1,734,032	178,341	9.3
Sunday Times	1,346,753	9,080	0.7
Times	759,507	16,239	2.1
Total	26,406,355	1,009,858	3.3

In search of the naked truth

Kira Phillips had to work in the nude for a Channel 4 documentary

Last year I received a phone call from a man I'd never met. He asked me to meet him then travel to a secluded spot in the country and take off my clothes. In fact, he asked me to spend the best part of three months without clothes, along with him and his male colleagues. Naturally, he would pay me.

What sounds like a rather tawdry arrangement was the beginning of the most remarkable — and strange — period of my life. The man making this bizarre overture was the documentary-maker Sam Anthony; his project was a film about naturism in Britain. He wanted me as assistant producer. I accepted.

Three days later the two of us were sitting in a camper van in woodlands near Bournemouth — on a reconnaissance to interview one of Britain's foremost naturists. We were to meet him in his naturist camp, the Bournemouth and District Outdoor Club. Sam and I had felt from the outset that we should conduct all interviews naked and so



When in Rome: the film crew decided to adopt the naturist approach to make their interviewees feel more comfortable

win the trust of our interviewees. It was time to see if we had the guts to go through with it.

We giggled a bit but found it wasn't as bad as we had thought. Inside the naturist camp, our nakedness was entirely unremarkable to everyone. It was not until we met our host and his wife that we began to feel self-conscious. One of the most vociferous champions of naturism in Britain had decided that he would wear his clothes that day.

We sat down to what was a very uncomfortable lunch: being naked in front of other naked people is no big deal — everyone is equally vulnerable. But when your companions are clothed, the emphasis on your own nudity is marked. It was a nightmare. This is why wearing clothes, even temporarily, in some naturist camps is actively discouraged.

On the whole, Sam and I were not enormously fussed about having to take off our clothes. My parents occasionally visited nudist camps and took me with them, and Sam was not particularly body-con-

scious. When we first took the crew down to start shooting, our soundman Bob showed an almost peculiar willingness to get his kit off. By a complete coincidence, it turned out he had been a naturist for 25 years.

Our cameraman Richard turned out to be a different story. He was extremely nervous about being naked in public, and totally unsure of what to expect. When Sam and I first casually strolled over to him, chatting and making no reference to our nakedness, he

looked at us with unadulterated horror.

When finally persuaded to take everything off, he spent the first hour wandering about with his camera covering his nether regions, quite literally shooting from the hip. Ultimately, we had to persuade him to abandon this practice since a documentary about naturists filmed at bedside level might be considered dubious.

One of the things that struck me about naturism was the randomness with which the people we filmed approached nudity. They would expose themselves to the elements when clothes would have been a positive boon, yet at other times dress up for no apparent reason, on quite warm days.

There is one occasion I will never forget. We were trying to persuade a nudist camp in Dorset to allow us to film inside. We did this by wandering around, trying to make people feel comfortable with us being there. We chatted to

one man who was doing welding work on his car radiator. To say he showed a disregard for protective equipment would be an understatement.

We watched dumbfounded as a spark flew from the radiator into his pubic hair, which to our horror burst into flames. The unfortunate man must have been glad that the cameras were not rolling.

● Witness: Acting Natural is on Channel 4 on Monday at 9pm.

media times

Human face of advertising

'When in doubt, be nice,' Peter Mead tells Raymond Snoddy

When Abbott Mead Vickers-BBDO became Britain's largest advertising and marketing group two years ago its chairman, Peter Mead, celebrated in a most peculiar way. He bought some sandwiches and ate them in Berkeley Square, Central London, opposite the offices of his rival, J. Walter Thompson.

"It was just for me," says Mead, a boy from Peckham, South London, who 40 years earlier had been offered a job in JWT's dispatch department. It had been explained to him that the agency had a canteen but on his wages he wouldn't be able to afford to use it. The park in the square opposite was suggested as an alternative.

throughout, and rocketed upwards when the recession ended. Barring a complete collapse of the world economy, the "No Redundancy" policy will remain in place this time, too. But as Mead says: "If I lived in a media-free environment, I'd hardly know there was going to be a recession. You can hardly get a seat in a restaurant and none of our clients is cutting budgets."

It is easier to promise no job losses this time because AMV-BBDO is a more broadly based communications company: only 40 per cent of its income comes from advertising.

Mead is talking in his Marylebone office, which is dominated by a giant jukebox and extensive fish tanks, which he deems no more expensive than conventional art, and a lot more fun. The genial, burly figure, who smokes too much for his own good and seems untroubled by the need to be politically correct, is diffident as he tries to justify the policy of behaving well that led AMV to refuse all work in South Africa pre-Mandela and to turn down tobacco companies as clients.

"One of the great joys of trying to behave properly as an organisation, and we always have, is that it is commercially sensible as well. You get the most out of people by capturing an unfair share of their heads and hearts. If you create a feeling of security and people like the place, they work in a way you wouldn't believe possible."



Peter Mead: "Behaving properly as an organisation is commercially sensible"

His late father was a window cleaner and as he talks, almost on cue, a window cleaner's cradle inches past the multimillionaire's window just as it begins to rain.

Mead, who describes himself as "the bagman" at the agency in contrast to David Abbott, the creative force who has just retired, says he is grateful to his father for instilling a belief that anything is possible. He is slightly less grateful for being taken as a child to Millwall Football Club rather than Spurs or Arsenal. The continuing lifelong obsession has probably cost him £3 million. He was chairman of Millwall and a significant shareholder when it became the first club to be top of the first division in December and relegated at the end of the season.

Although it was one of the worst experiences of his life, Mead is still Millwall's deputy chairman and his son Billy is on the playing staff.

Mead, 58, describes himself as a media dinosaur who has tried to surf the Internet and failed, though naturally the group has bought itself an Internet company as part of its expansion into communications and publishing. He is sceptical of developments that are driven by technology rather than consumer demand and points to those who forecast that by now cable would be the dominant medium. "Only ten years ago people were telling me you won't have books any more, everything will be CD-Roms, and newspapers will be dead by the end of the century," he says.

"Occasionally people confuse activity with progress. We have voice-mail, which I'm removing because I think it is deeply counter-productive for most of the company. People like to talk to people, not electronic message machines."

He believes it is far too early to

predict how digital television is going to perform in the UK other than to say it will take years of hard work and require strong financial nerves to make it take off.

Unlike many advertising industry executives Mead does not want to see ads on the BBC: "It's nice to have something that is independent, which is truly non-commercial in the best sense of the word."

David Abbott has retired to do other things but Mead intends to stay on until his contract runs out in 2001. He will probably sign another if his colleagues don't think he is "dribbling too much". He says he will retire the day he no longer gets goosepimples just talking about the business he clearly loves. He has only one unfulfilled ambition: "I'd like to write a management book to persuade more people that 'when in doubt, be nice' is a commercial as well as a human view."

Enough to put me in a spin

■ I LOATHE the word "spin" being used to describe public relations. It suggests to me something flimsy and made up, a far cry from "telling the truth persuasively" that the PR textbooks describe and that I and thousands of professionals try to put into practice. The term spin was coined during the 1980s in American politics and really denotes the culture of the soundbite rather than the "planned and sustained effort to establish mutual understanding and goodwill between an organisation and its publics" as defined by the IPR (Institute of Public Relations).

cultivate an image which is both serious and frivolous intensifies. PR advice has been drafted in left, right and centre to the Royal Family lately, and they finally look as if they are controlling the agenda some of the time, rather than always reacting to the latest report (although Charles's response to the ITV documentary claiming he favoured the Queen's abdication was, to my mind, heavy-handed and ensured that the programme got maximum advance attention).

Royal PR appointments, such as that of Simon Lewis, communications secretary at Buckingham Palace, are interesting not just because of their high calibre but because they are on secondment from the corporate world.



■ THE voluntary sector could also benefit more from high-flyers in PR being seconded to them. Perhaps Alison Clarke, the new president-elect of the Institute of Public Relations, can urge companies and consultancies to start giving their expertise regularly.

Since Princes William and Harry plugged the sportswear Kangol during their Canadian trip in March (when they wore the company's caps backwards), any kind of endorsement by the Princes must be top of the PR list for thousands of businesses.

If Bandai UK, producers of the Yomega X-brain yo-yo which has swept school playgrounds this autumn, could persuade the Princes to do a sponsored yo-yo for charity, this could be the best kind of publicity: good clean fun, and in aid of a good cause. Any takers?

● Julia Hobsbawm is the founder and chairwoman of Hobsbawm Macaulay Communications

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EDUCATION

What has made these girls the best in Britain?

Tailor-made target-setting boosts pupil performance. Report by Maureen Ribbins and Dru James



Charting success: Ruth Butler and Paula Hendriks, 15, at a personal social education session in Wolverhampton

This summer, one year group at Wolverhampton Girls' High School achieved the school's highest GCSE rate at A* and A grades. The girls passed 80 per cent of their subjects with A* and A passes — the best pass rate in a British state school. Wolverhampton is a selective school which is expected to do well in next month's league tables. How has it achieved this?

"We all get on very well together in our year and we helped each other to get to the top," wrote one pupil. "We revised together and encouraged each other and therefore worked well and felt confident going into exams."

Her words sum up the philosophy of a personal review scheme which has since been adopted by a second school, Woldingham, an independent Roman Catholic girls' boarding school in Surrey.

Over the past few years, staff have ensured that each girl at Wolverhampton has her own system of target-setting and review. This is now paying dividends in terms of greater work-satisfaction and better results. The method is similar to the best appraisal

techniques used in industry, and to the profile and self-report systems that are encouraged at other state schools.

At Wolverhampton we have started the process with Year 7 — girls in their first year — and, unlike some schools, we involve senior management in the process.

When each girl arrives at the school, she is given a review folder, which she will keep throughout her school life, helping her to compare progress from year to year and to build a profile of her own aspirations and achievements.

Reports are given twice a year at Wolverhampton, and at the end of every term at Woldingham. Form teachers talk through reports with each pupil in a review lasting up to 20 minutes.

The pupil, in consultation with the tutor, fills in a review sheet in as much detail as possible. She must include her strengths and weaknesses in each subject, how she feels about her report, and the reaction of her family. Each pupil is asked to examine what motivates her to do well, and what prevents her from achieving her best. Like a thorough health check, this overhaul

also covers extracurricular activities, including the amount of time the girl spends on homework, watching TV and other leisure pursuits, including reading. She is asked to

consider possible career choices — even if she is only in Year 9 (aged 13). The tutor asks each pupil to list five realistic targets she would like to meet by certain dates; the end of term and the end of the year. These may concern work, attitude, behaviour, organisation, or a combination of these.

The next stage involves a senior member of staff, who conducts another review, concentrating on the targets the

pupil has set for herself. The system is time-consuming: whole days are set aside for these yearly reviews. But the results prove their value. Wolverhampton High pupils are

now more aware of how to analyse their work and how to set specific personal targets.

Until we consulted them, we had not realised how much of a team effort this would be. As one pupil commented: "We all

wanted to succeed. We knew we were a year of high achievers and we were proud of this. We didn't want to fail."

Of course, there is a risk of stress, but part of our PSE (personal and social education)

curriculum is devoted to helping pupils to deal with undue pressure. This includes an efficient time-management programme. We have sessions on relaxation, including yoga, aromatherapy and tai chi.

Staff are supportive. They tell us how much the responsibility for learning has been taken on by the pupils: they have become much more independent and can be relied on to carry out suggestions for developing their learning techniques. This enhances trusting relationships between staff and pupils.

Now that the personal review system is beginning at Woldingham, we shall be able to judge how well it works in a boarding environment, with pupils who have a wider range of abilities. Here, there will be

even more time to devote to girls who might struggle in particular areas. One of the strengths of a good review is early diagnosis of any problems that might hinder future performance.

The most important aspect of the review system — and perhaps the key to its success — is the dialogue it creates between pupils and staff. This should lead pupils to identify areas in which they are strong, to discover their skills and to apply them to subjects where they are weaker.

This will enhance their self-esteem, and increase the self-confidence they need to succeed.

● Dru James is Headmistress of Wolverhampton Girls' High School and Maureen Ribbins is Headmistress of Woldingham.

The grammar schools will not go quietly

Selection has been the Achilles' heel of the Labour education programme since well before the general election. While other policies have been a model of clarity, whatever criticism there may have been of their content, statements on selective education have been an object lesson in obfuscation. This week's regulations for ballots on the future of grammar schools were no exception.

The ballot provisions unleashed a veritable cyclone of hot air from both sides of the debate and will lead to costly, and no doubt bitter, campaigning, almost certainly to no effect. Grammar schools dare not admit it for fear of looking complacent, but the rules have been drawn up in such a way that very few schools will have anything to worry about.

The regulations are the latest example of the double-speak that has characterised Labour statements on selection since opinion polls began to show that abolishing the 166 remaining grammar schools would be unpopular with the electorate. Party spokesmen have had to find reasons for giving local parents the right to abolish selection, while imposing a national veto on its extension; for encouraging the allocation of places according to aptitude for technical or modern languages, but not for all-round academic ability.

Labour was already in trouble over selection when David Blunkett invited delegates to the 1996 party conference to "read my lips: no selection under a Labour Government".

What he meant to say was "no more selection". But the subtle difference raised expectations in the anti-grammar school lobby that the party leadership had no intention of fulfilling. Even the schools that recently introduced partial selection survived the provisions of the School Stand-

ards Act and will have to take their chance with local adjudicators. Mr Blunkett announced before the election that he would not be distracted by a side issue from dealing with the problems affecting the majority of state schools. But selection is a topic that refuses to go away: too many members of his own party want action and too many of his opponents see it as an area of weakness and division.

Parental ballots seemed the ideal way to spare the Government uncomfortable decisions on the fate of grammar schools. Who could argue with a system that passed the decision to those most affected? But campaigners on both sides know that the devil is in the detail of the arrangements, and the spin-doctors have made it clear that the Government's intention is to make it as difficult as possible to call a ballot.

Where fully selective systems exist, one parent in five will have to sign a petition before a vote can be held on the future of the grammar schools. In Buckinghamshire, for example, more than 40,000 signatures must be collected.

In other areas, the electorate will be confined to schools, including many in the independent sector, that have sent at least five children to grammar school in the past three years. It is almost inconceivable that a prep school parent would vote to abolish the local grammar school: for many, the object of paying fees is to secure a grammar school place; the rest would be voting for extra competition in the independent sector.

When the Campaign for State Education held a conference to build support for the ballots, only about 200 people attended. That hardly suggests the groundswell needed to shake the foundations of schools that survived everything the last Labour government could throw at them.



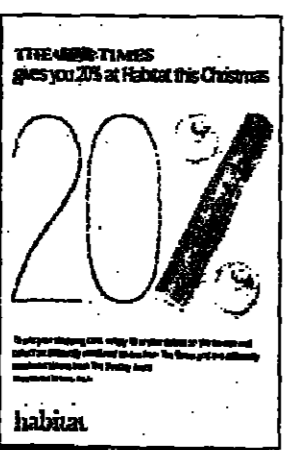
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Why Oxbridge does not work

Extracurricular jobs at university are still frowned on. Lucy Hawking reports

Sweeping changes to the funding of Oxford and Cambridge may force the universities to reconsider one of their cherished principles by allowing students to work part-time during the term. Students at Oxbridge, unlike others, are discouraged by their colleges from taking on a term-time job.

There is no official statute banning extracurricular employment, but academics consider that a job would leave students insufficient time to complete their courses because terms are only eight weeks long.

Terms are short and intensive, says an Oxford spokesman. "It would be regrettable if students missed out on educational opportunities." However, the cost of a degree from Oxford or Cambridge could rise greatly over the next few years and all students already have to pay a means-tested tuition fee of up to £1,000 a year. Until now, they have been able to save money by living in college accommodation for a greater part of the degree course than at other universities. They pay rent only for the time they are in residence and, at about £40 a week, this puts an Oxbridge student's annual rent bill at about £1,350. A commercial property would cost a minimum of £3,000.

es, worked part-time every term except his first, earning up to £100 a week from bar work. "Without that money I would have had no social life," he says. He also believes that for students such as himself, working in a restaurant that provided a hot meal made a big difference. Mr Illis, who kept his bar job even during finals, thinks that it did not affect his work. "I am sure I did better because I had a change of scene. But I chose not to tell the college." He believes it was unofficially accepted that students had part-time jobs.

Mr Illis coped with work and study, but other students are unsure that they could do so. A Cambridge undergraduate says: "Some tutors tell students not to work, even over the holidays, because of their academic commitments. So how could you have a term-time job?"

If rents rise sharply, universities will have to devise a way to lessen the financial burden, especially if they are to attract students from poorer backgrounds. Mark Jones Parry, welfare and graduate officer of Cambridge University Students' Union, says: "If students suffer stress because they cannot meet financial commitments, that will harm academic life."

Allowing students to work part-time seems an obvious way to increase income, but it could mean lowering academic standards. It is already a reality, however, and at least 30 universities have recruitment agencies on campus. Nationally, 40 per cent of students are thought to have part-time jobs, and the figure is expected to rise as high as 60 or 70 per cent.



Oxbridge: study only

THE TIMES

2 FOR 1 PORT OFFER



See Weekend tomorrow for full details

CHANGING TIMES

مكتبة من الأصل

Scots Law Report November 20 1998 Outer House

Identifying sites for environmental protection

WWF-UK Ltd and Another v Secretary of State for Scotland
Before Lord Nimmo Smith
Judgment October 27
In the linked processes of identifying and drawing the boundaries of special protection under the EC Birds and Habitats Directives, national authorities had a discretion as to where the boundaries should run, albeit the basis for their judgments had to be scientific.

WWF-UK Ltd and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
The proposed boundary excluded both the Cairngorms and the summit of Cairn Gorm.
Over the following two years, public consultations on the planning application had been carried out, to which the petitioners had been invited. Over that period Scottish Heritage, in its role as statutory consultee to the planning authority under regulation 46 of the 1994 Regulations, had maintained an objection to the planning application.

Boundaries of an SPA had to be determined by reference to ornithological criteria alone, but beyond that, detailed examination of those judgments demonstrated that they did not support the petitioners' approach.
Turning to the legislative language itself, his Lordship also rejected the submission that under their Directive the identification of sites and the delineation of boundaries were distinct steps, the former only involving an exercise of discretion.

The assessment issue
The petitioners also argued that even if the boundaries had been correctly drawn, Scottish Heritage and the council could not have ascertained, as they were obliged to do under regulation 46B, that the development would not adversely affect the integrity of the proposed European site.
Conditional planning permission could not be granted for a project that was likely to have a significant adverse effect. Moreover, the standard was that of an absolute guarantee of a legal certainty that there would be no such effect.

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Conditional planning permission could not be granted for a project that was likely to have a significant adverse effect. Moreover, the standard was that of an absolute guarantee of a legal certainty that there would be no such effect.

Court of Appeal

Law Report November 20 1998

Court of Appeal

Using compelled affidavit in trial

Amendment plea refused

Attorney-General for Gibraltar v May and Others
Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Robert Walker
Judgment November 6
Although the Attorney-General was bound by an implied undertaking not to use in criminal proceedings against a defendant the contents of an affidavit the defendant had sworn under a court order ancillary to an application for a Mareva injunction to freeze the defendant's assets, the court would exercise its discretion to release the Attorney-General from the implied undertaking.

Attorney-General for Gibraltar v May and Others
Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Robert Walker
Judgment November 6
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CHANGING TIMES
A vertical advertisement on the left side of the page, partially obscured by the newspaper's fold.

Brothers united in common aim



Kevin Eason on the chances of the McRaes creating history

Even with both McRae brothers in the same room, they barely utter a word between them. They are great believers in actions speaking louder than words. Colin, the elder and the senior by virtue of having been world champion, is famously sparing in his assessments and, predictably, did not have much to say when considering his own chances or those of the other drivers who will contest the Network Q Rally of Great Britain this weekend.

However, the words come quickly and enthusiastically when he talks about his brother, Alister, though that is not simply the product of sibling ties but a sign of the respect of one driver for another. So unstringing is his praise that the usually guarded Scot grins at the suggestion that two Subarus could cross the line on Tuesday night in first and second places, driven by the brothers McRae.

Far-fetched? Not at all, given the record of the McRaes in this most gruelling of rallies. Colin is a three-time winner, while Alister won the junior Formula Two class last year, only to have his Volkswagen Golf disqualified for infringing the rules on suspensions.

A McRae one-two would also be compensation for a season of disappointments in which neither man has been able to realise the rich potential that makes them among the best drivers in world



Alister, left, and Colin McRae, who will both be driving for Subaru, hope to dominate the Network Q Rally of Great Britain this weekend

motor sport. Colin was closing in on a second world championship before a blown turbo-charger at the previous rally, in Australia, ended his campaign. — leaving the title between Tommi Makinen and Carlos Sainz.

For Alister, this season has been one of waiting for his chance in the senior formula with a lucrative works drive in one of the high-performance four-wheel-drive cars that dominate rallying.

He lost the opportunity of replacing his brother at Subaru to Richard Burns, the up-and-coming Englishman, but he has a one-off drive alongside big brother this weekend, forming half of a formidable team that could yet have a say in the outcome of the world championship.

"We have nothing to lose in this rally," Colin, 30, said. "We both just want to go out and win. Of course, it is disappointing to be out of the world cham-

Alister, two years younger, is in the family mould, although blond and slighter in physique than Colin. He was British Rally Champion in 1995 and has consistently

move into the top-flight. "I was starting to worry that I would be stuck in the British championships and unable to move up," he said. "I feel I am ready for the world championship series and that makes this drive in Britain so important for me. It gives me a chance to prove what I can do in one of the four-wheel-drive cars."

There is no jealousy here, though Alister has watched while his brother has garnered the sort of riches that accrue to only the best sportsmen, with houses in Monaco and Verbier and a bank balance that ensures lifetime security.

"Colin is worth it," he said. "He is the quickest driver in the world. I just want my chance to prove what I can do. It will be very difficult here, but there is nothing to lose. Just drive and hope for the best." In spite of the doubts that Alister will be able to keep up with the best of the world

stars, the dream persists that a British one-two is a genuine possibility. David Lapworth, manager of the Prodrive Subaru Impreza S55 team, believes it is not beyond the bounds of possibility. "The desire to perform well in front of their home crowd is very strong and they work very well together. We thought it would be fun to see whether it would work and put the brothers together."

"After all, it would be a first in rallying, probably in any sport, to have two brothers coming first and second in a world championship event like this."

Whether either McRae wins or not, one thing is for sure on the eve of this rally. All the top drivers will be casting an anxious eye over the blue Subarus before the start on Sunday. After all, they have spent the past year scrapping for points with one formidable McRae, now they have two to worry about.

"I want to finish the season on a high and there is no better way than to win here"

shown the sort of speed that marks him out, which is why Hyundai has picked him for its world rally championship effort next year.

He will contest only ten world rallies in the new Hyundai Coupe Evo II, but it is a

move into the top-flight. "I was starting to worry that I would be stuck in the British championships and unable to move up," he said. "I feel I am ready for the world championship series and that makes this drive in Britain so important for me. It gives me a chance to prove what I can do in one of the four-wheel-drive cars."

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HOCKEY

Loughborough grateful for switch by Lee

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

JASON LEE, the England and Great Britain forward, has joined Loughborough Students after a short stay with Cannock, for whom he scored two goals in a 3-3 draw with Canterbury in a National League match on October 25.

The move is linked with Lee's position as the East Midlands divisional coaching manager, which makes it more convenient for him to be based in Loughborough.

In a weekend of double-headers in the premier division, Cannock will be without the injured defender Michael Johnson, who is replaced by Martin Jones, a promising young forward. On Sunday, Cannock will entertain Southgate, who visit an injury-hit Brooklands team on the previous day. Southgate have so far earned maximum points from their five matches and boast the only unblemished record. Reading will be unchanged for a home match against

Beeston tomorrow and a trip to Canterbury, the premier division leaders, on Sunday.

East Grinstead, with their former coach Richard Leman re-registered as a player, entertain Teddington tomorrow before a match against Bournville on the following day. Despite some heroic performances, East Grinstead are still without a point after five matches.

Hounslow, who are also struggling in the lower half of the table, have signed Steve Evans, a South African who has dual nationality status. Brooklands have recruited Jorge Gonzales, the Spain international, and Renaud Sterker, a Frenchman, has joined Indian Gymkhana in the first division.

Stourport, who share the first division leadership with Surbiton and Doncaster, face Firebrands on Sunday. Doncaster are at Eastcoat and Surbiton host Oxford Hawks.

Dutch expertise lifts Leicester

By CATHY HARRIS

THE gamble of being the first women's premier division club to appoint a foreign coach is beginning to pay off for Leicester. After an undistinguished start to the season, Bo Koolen, from Holland, has steered the promoted Midlands club to fourth place.

Most clubs are happy with a place in the top four and to qualify for the play-offs, but not Leicester. "It is not an absolute must," Koolen said. "We need to play good hockey and the rest will follow. It's not always important just to play for points."

Koolen should know, for as a former player at HGC, one of the most successful clubs in Holland and Europe, she knows all about the rigours of succeeding in play-offs and believes that the format keeps the mid-table battle alive. "It gives the whole league some-

thing to focus on," she said. For the time being, however, she is happy to concentrate on improving the basic skills of the team. "I'm working on fitness and the technique for hitting," she said. "It's a big weakness over here."

Koolen coached in Burma and Singapore when she and Dina, her husband, lived in Thailand. She was also an assistant coach to the United States women's squad at the Atlanta Olympic Games.

Koolen describes teenager Helen Richardson, of Leicester, as an England player of the future, but Jo Mould, the England defender, will be missing at Doncaster tomorrow after breaking a hand. Koolen is confident of victory, but the outcome at Ipswich, where the unbeaten leaders entertain Slough, the champions, is less predictable.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

OUT OF BONDAGE

She wanted to be one Bond girl who actually succeeded as a serious actress... How Famke Janssen beat the 007 bimbo trap

The Sunday Times, this weekend

SPORT: GULLIT INTERVIEW

Ruud Gullit on trying to revitalise Newcastle United on a tight budget

PLUS Hugh McIlvanney previews Manchester United's vital Champions League clash with Barcelona; and David Walsh talks to Tony McCoy, the champion jump jockey, about his controversial all-action riding style

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Begin Bridge with The Times

Lesson 32 - Stronger Balanced Hands

If you have a balanced hand but are too strong to open One No-Trump, then you must open One of your longest suit and rebid in no-trumps at your first opportunity. If you have a 4-3-3-3 or 5-3-3-2 distribution, this is easy because you have only one "longest" suit. If you have two four-card suits it is not quite so straightforward.

If you have an eight-card major-suit fit it is usually a good idea to play in it, otherwise no-trumps will normally be right. The easiest way to find a major-suit fit is to open a major so, with a four-card major and a four-card minor, it is better to open the major. If you have both majors you should open One Heart. If partner has four spades he will usually bid the suit so the spade fit will be found. The choice with both minors is less important because the hand will probably be played in no-trumps in any event, but this course recommends One Diamond.

Having opened One of your longest suit and heard partner's response in a new suit, you rebid no-trumps at the lowest possible level with 15-17 HCP and make a jump rebid in No-Trumps with 18-19 HCP. If you are lucky enough to be dealt 20-22 HCP you open Two No-Trumps in the first place, but more of that, and even stronger hands, later.

Choose your opening bid (and rebid) with the following hands:

(1) ♠AK75 ♥AQ54 ♦K5 ♣973
 (2) ♠AQ43 ♥64 ♦AQ6 ♣K1085
 (3) ♠KJ105 ♥AQ6 ♦AK76 ♣AJ
 (4) ♠A95 ♥KJ104 ♦AQ55 ♣A6
 (5) ♠AQ3 ♥KJ1054 ♦A3 ♣Q53

Hand (1) has 16 HCP and is 4-4 in the majors. Open One Heart. If partner responds One Spade give a jump raise to Three Spades (more on this later), but if he bids a new suit at the two level, rebid Two No-Trumps.

Hand (2) has 15 HCP and 4-4 in the black suits. Open One Spade. If partner bids a new suit at the two level rebid Two No-Trumps.

Hand (3) has 22 HCP. Open Two No-Trumps. I will show you how to bid over this strong opening bid in a later article.

Hand (4) has 18 HCP and is 4-4 in the red suits. Open One Heart. If partner bids One Spade jump to Two No-Trumps; if he bids a new suit at the two level bid Three No-Trumps.

With Hand (5) it is clear to open One Heart. Make a simple rebid in no-trumps if partner makes a change-of-suit response. If partner has three-card support for hearts he will be able to show that on the next round and the eight-card fit won't be lost.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HYGRIC
 a. A mythical beast
 b. Old Anatolian language
 c. To do with water

NASTALIK
 a. A tented village
 b. A cursive script
 c. An anti-clerical sectarian

NASUTUS
 a. A descendant of Ovid
 b. Having a big hooter
 c. Having no clothes

NUDNIK
 a. A bore
 b. A blank
 c. The Siberian antelope

Answers on page 54

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

British gold

In my column of November 9, I announced the double British gold medals in the world under-18 championships achieved by Ruth Sheldon and Nicholas Pert, both representing the British Chess Federation and generously supported by Saitek computers.

Today I give a victory by Pert in the championship from which he emerged victorious.

Pert's aggressive style leads to a powerful attack which he concludes with a sacrifice to demolish the fortifications around the opposing king.

White: Fedorchuk
Black: Pert

World under-18
Oroposa del Mar, Spain 1998

French Defence

1	e4	e5
2	d4	d5
3	Nd2	Nf6
4	e5	Nf7
5	Bd3	c5
6	c3	Nc6
7	Ne2	cd4
8	cd4	f6
9	exf6	Nf6
10	Nf3	Bb6
11	O-O	Qe6
12	Nc3	O-O
13	Bg5	Ng4
14	Bh4	Nh6
15	Bg3	Bg3
16	h3	Nf5
17	Bh5	Rd5
18	Ng4	Qd4
19	Rc1	Qd6
20	Nc5	b6
21	Nd3	Bb6
22	Qd4	Bc4
23	b3	Bd3
24	Rc6	Qf8
25	Rc1	Be4

Diagram of final position

Kasparov challenge

The Times has been fortunate in being able to team up once again with world champion Garry Kasparov to offer a marvellous opportunity for our readers. In December, for charitable purposes, the champion will take on selected members of the public and ten Times readers will be invited to take part free of charge. Watch this column next week for full details of how to apply for entry.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369906 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Minasian - Koshvili, Elista Olympiad, 1998. Black, a pawn ahead, is trying to exchange queens to gain a promising endgame.

Can White do better than accept?

Solution on page 54

مكتبة من الأصل

FOOTBALL

Ireland gain new respect despite defeat

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

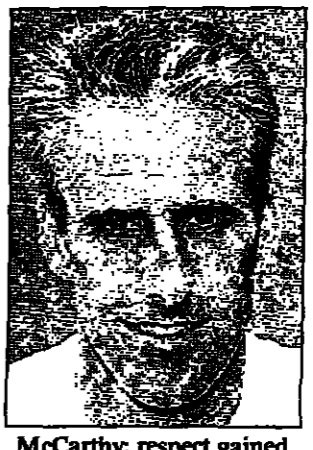
Ireland had hoped for a draw against Yugoslavia in Belgrade on Wednesday night and Northern Ireland had expected a victory over Moldova in Belfast. That neither match went according to plan...

STANDINGS table with columns for Group three and Group eight, listing teams like Ireland, Moldova, Yugoslavia, and their respective P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts.

12 international goals, one short of Colin Clarke's Northern Ireland record - and Neil Lennon guided in the second after a long throw-in from Steve Lomas. Finland and Turkey lead the group on six points...

After going behind, when Gary Breen and Steve Staunton failed to cut out a cross from Jovan Stankovic, Ireland pressed forward and had two strong appeals for penalties turned down...

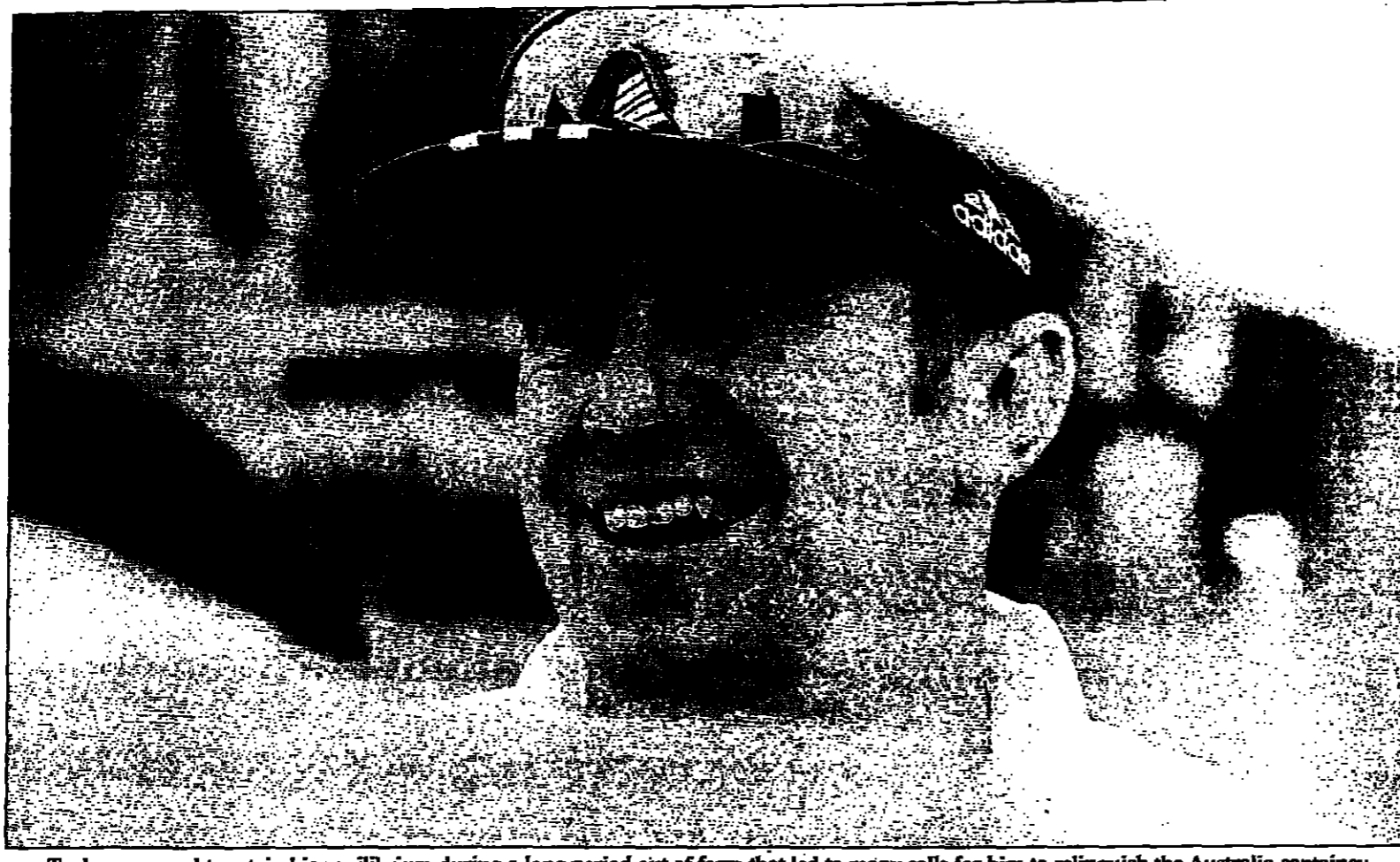
Ireland still lead the group on goal difference and before their next tie - against FYR Macedonia in Skopje on March 27 - hope to arrange a match against Spain, Holland or Switzerland in Dublin in February...



McCarthy: respect gained

Alan Lee talks to the Australia captain as he starts his 100th Test match Taylor celebrates century stand

Time has passed, wounds have healed and Mark Taylor now feels able to admit that life would have turned out rather differently for him if he had not made a memorably ugly, yet stirring, defiant century at Edgbaston in June last year.



Taylor managed to retain his equilibrium during a long period out of form that led to many calls for him to relinquish the Australia captaincy

More than all this, indeed, Taylor would not have achieved the mystical status conferred upon him for his captaincy of one of the finest teams the world has known. He would just have been the good guy who had to get out when the runs dried up.

In truth, Taylor has never been a batsman to stir a sense of anticipation. He has accumulated, with tucks behind square leg and pushes to cover, only occasionally unleashing his favourite straight drive. Because of this, and despite a Test match aggregate of more than 7,000 runs at almost 45 per innings, his batting has been lauded far less than his leadership.

His average was even higher before he took on the captaincy, four years ago. "I made a pair in my first Test as captain, on a flat wicket in Karachi, and it was only then that I thought 'hang on, I've got to make some runs here, too'. At



certain times, the job has affected my batting and I think if I hadn't been captain I might have made a few more runs. "This is as close as he comes to any show of regret, for the captaincy has made his name, moulding a reputation that will guarantee him high esteem in whatever field he eventually branches into.

Taylor's Test Record table with columns for Tests, Runs, Average, and other statistics.

He has distanced himself from his players when necessary, but the lines of communication are strong. "We talk more openly now than we ever did before and that's how I like it. If someone in the side has got the squirts with me, I want him to come and tell me."

Under Taylor, Australia have won a lot, lost a few and drawn hardly at all. It is not in his nature to play five days for a stalemate and while his notion that Test cricket should be entertaining met with some cynicism at first, nobody doubts his sincerity now.

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Aylesbury cut out for title

By WALTER GAMMIE

The life-sized cardboard cut-out of Gary Crawshaw that greets shoppers at the Friars Square Centre is dear evidence that Aylesbury United, the leaders of the Ryman League, are winning back the hearts and minds of the Buckinghamshire town.

Non-League Football. The coaching load, Aylesbury don't have any complaints so far. Dowie kept four players, Lee Harvey, Jermaine Darlington, Mark Jones and Kevin Gallagher from the squad collected by Steve Ketteridge, his predecessor, and brought three more from Harrow - Jason Court, Steve Butler and Ian Rutherford. He also recruited Crawshaw, Richard Wilmoth, Jason Solomon, from Stevenage Borough, Warren Kelly, from Rushden and Diamonds, and Corey Browne and Cliff Hercules, from Slough Town.

reached 600 appearances in a 2-1 win at Sutton United a fortnight ago, and is ten short of 300 goals - even though at 36 he now plays in the centre of defence. "He's tremendous," Dowie said. "He approaches every game as if it's his first."

FOR THE RECORD

Various sports records and news items including basketball, football, and tennis.

FIXTURES

Schedule of upcoming sports fixtures for various leagues and events.

FOR THE RECORD

Additional sports records and news items.

Henry says he wants to join Arsenal

By WALTER GAMMIE

THERRY HENRY, the AS Monaco and France striker, has revealed his desire to join Arsenal, the FA Carling Premiership champions. This is likely to please Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, who is keen to strengthen his forward line.

SQUASH

News and results from the world of squash, including tournament winners and player performances.

SNOOKER

News and results from the world of snooker, including tournament winners and player performances.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Absence Britain elite fail deter' and 'to win more Mr'.

and gain respect
vite defeat

TENNIS

Absence of Britain's elite fails to deter LTA

By JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE national championships represent the horns of a greater dilemma for the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). A low-key affair for the absence of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, the championships at Telford this week appear marooned in midstream.

In that sense, the LTA and the national championships confront the same conundrum. Old-fashioned traditions jostle with the need for a more commercial approach ahead of the new century. The LTA has been forced to decide whether the virtues of camaraderie and kinship outweigh the cost (£165,000) of staging an event shorn of Britain's best players.

Modern convention dictates that a choice must be made. Should the tournament be seriously promoted to the public, or should the LTA bear the financial burden in its off-curtained role as the benevolent grandparent? The latter option is one it can well afford — even if the concept rests uneasily with an association increasingly sensitive to the business ethic. The irony is that this is one instance where the LTA's largesse is well directed.

"We are satisfied that investment in the national championships provides us with the tennis return we're looking for."

John Crowther, the LTA chief executive, said. "In 12 months we have cut the costs of staging the event by £165,000, and we now believe we are getting value for money."

Of the two distinct components within these national championships, the more visual element is actually the less important. The argument whether British players should compete among themselves for prize-money of £90,000 is of secondary importance. More enduring images from this week will be the coming together of players, coaches and administrators all striving to improve standards.

The on-court action this year, particularly among men, has emphasised just how much room for improvement exists. It is commonly agreed that the world status of Henman and Rusedski militates against them competing. This is a pity: their presence would lend a totally different complexion to a men's singles championships devoid of much significance.

Their absence, which explains the lack of a front-line sponsor this year, also serves to underline the paucity of talent beneath them. That Paul Robinson, a qualifier from Northamptonshire, could first beat David Sherwood, a



Danny Sapsford on his way to victory over Paul Hand yesterday in the second round of the national championships

recent national junior champion, then account for Andrew Richardson, touted as a world top-100 prospect 12 months ago, makes a sorry testament.

Sherwood has often frustrated and Richardson's projected rise collapsed when he lost all motivation after his first-round exit from Wimbledon in June. He is only just returning to competitive tennis.

Richardson's predicament is symptomatic of the malaise afflicting British tennis. A

badly-needed third singles string to Britain's Davis Cup bow.

On the face of it, there are reasons aplenty to question the worth of the national championships. Poor crowds and plenty of untold tickets betray an apathetic public. And the distribution of £90,000 in prize-money probably exceeds the LTA's remit to provide opportunities for British players already greatly advantaged by the summer grass-court season.

Yet while domestic merit matters little in the global context of tennis, one of Britain's failures to produce greater numbers of world-class players is down to the uncompetitive nature of the game in this country. Any curtailment of this platform would further erode competitive opportunities for Britain's juniors at a time when a greater number is needed.

Results, page 52

Poor service is costly for Kournikova

FROM ALEX RAMSAY IN NEW YORK

IT IS a shame about Anna Kournikova. She is extremely famous, very rich and rather good at tennis. It is just that she cannot win matches. Even suffering from a virus that has meant she has not eaten since Sunday, Seles simply could not refuse this invitation.

The rumblings from the locker-room are that Pavel Slozil, Kournikova's coach, may soon be out of a job. That seems a little unfair as he has helped his charge to achieve everything that she set out to do this year.

She had an excellent start to the season, reaching the final of the Lipton championships, beating Martina Hingis in Berlin and going on to qualify for this event. Kournikova has more than enough talent to overcome her present problems and now, on holiday until January, she can do just that in private.

Maybe a few days off will allow her to find a shirt that fits. Wednesday's offering was obviously too small, revealing yards of midriff every time she moved. It was a good job she was so evenly tanned or she really would have been embarrassed.

Lindsay Davenport was almost embarrassed by Sandrine Testud and her gantry leg on Wednesday. Feeling tentative and nervous, the world No. 1 seemed at a loss to know what to do next against her injured opponent, letting slip a lead in the first two sets.

Testud was playing well and making the most of her chances until she lost the momentum in the second-set tie-break, letting Davenport through 4-6, 7-6, 6-0.

Will to win means no more Mr Nice Guy

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Union Commentary

For all the topsy-turvy emotions that came in the wake of Wales' dramatic performance last weekend, nobody knew quite what to make of it or how properly to respond, such was the magnitude of the surprise. It is Graham Henry's observation that Wales "needs to grow up, to mature; they need to know how to win". That should now concentrate the mind.

The observation by the Wales coach is not new but all the better for being said by, shall we say, an outsider. The other countries of the Five Nations ought to lend an ear for they, too, might benefit.

True competition has presented a dilemma to most sportsmen in team games in this country. There has always been an ambivalence about winning, how it should be achieved and how much should it mean to do so. We like to instil the sensation that rugby union, for instance, should be fun, to be enjoyed. Which, of course, is true enough. We also like to promote the idea that rugby is "only a game", which again, of course, is true.

The trouble is that, if these little conceits are repeated often enough, they begin to sound too much like an excuse, a contrivance to hide a weakness. We lack the sliver of ice.

Then there is the mood, pervasive over the decades, that we in these islands cannot be seen to want to win too much. Certainly we have no wish, or at least a reluctance, to admit to a strong desire to win. This may have something to do with good manners and wishing to avoid any sense of ostentation: to present a modest, unassuming face.

There is, it might further be said, almost an aristocratic air

of detachment that, to a large degree, lay at the heart of amateurism in the first place. Take rugby: we get the game over with so that, as good companions, we can settle down to a good dinner. The carefree stance of the sporting dilettante, though, appeals to us still.

'Wales would have liked to have won; South Africa demanded it'

Or else we perpetuate the erroneous notion that nice guys don't win and that, given the choice, we would prefer to be nice guys. Niceness and winning are not mutually exclusive and you do not have to behave boorishly to be a winner. On the other hand, this reluctance may be interpreted simply as the fear of failure. We cannot be seen to lose the

sense of our own dignity. The core of our sporting instinct portrays a theme that winning is a desirable consequence but, really, not essential.

These attitudes may no longer be true. Taken singly, not one of them may be thought significant, but collectively it is where our attitude to sport has derived. This inheritance remains with us. The point was made forcibly once more at Wembley last Saturday when South Africa who, like New Zealand and Australia, do not carry any doubtful baggage from the past, were able to dig deep into their resolve and mental need to win to secure a victory at the last. The difference lay in that Wales would have liked to have won; South Africa demanded it.

This was a Welsh performance bordering on the heroic, but it lacked the instinct to drive the point home. Teams such as the Springboks, the All Blacks and, latterly, the Wallabies do not, latterly, think about the will to win. It is bred within them. Once the whistle blows, the chase is on. It should go without saying that the main point of any competition, be it a board game or when you are contemplating losing your shirt on a horse, is to win.

It is what Henry means when he says that the Wales team "needs to grow up". To be the "nearly" men — brave and courageous players who fail — is not good enough, but it is bred in our culture. Wales' sinking feeling will be made the more poignant and telling by the fact that they lost the match in the closing stages when for most of the 80 minutes they had held the lead.

The age of Geoff Cooke and Will Carling, for England, is the most recent of very few examples of a team from these islands having acquired the ice needed for a prolonged period of success at the highest level. The jury, however, is out on the question of whether this has signalled a permanent change within England's rugby culture or whether this was by and large due, as with Wales in the 1970s, to the collection of marvellous players emerging at the same time.

Consider how the mask slipped last season when, at Old Trafford, the England players ran triumphantly around the pitch. This lap of honour was at the end of a fixture against the All Blacks that they had not won. This hardly suggests that the new generation of players has inherited the winning culture.

Are they too comfortable with second best? With New Zealanders involved in the coaching of three of the four home nations, excluding Scotland, will we see a change?

Desperate Scotland look south for winning combination

Mark Souster on brothers who left New Zealand in search of success

I An McGeechan once described New Zealanders as Scotsmen who have learned to win. It is not difficult to make the connection. There is a natural affinity between the two nations and the cultural and historical links remain strong to this day. In rugby terms, however, Scotland have always marched in New Zealand's shadow, which is why they must hope that John Leslie, the son of a former All Black captain, will bring with him some of that winning habit on his debut for his newly-adopted country against South Africa at Murrayfield tomorrow.

By any standards his is a meteoric rise. Leslie, an inside centre, has been in Scotland barely a fortnight and has played only one game for Glasgow Caledonians, albeit against South Africa, last week. A typically laid-back character in the mould of many New Zealanders, even he is bewildered at the pace of events. "I didn't expect this. I feel very fortunate to be involved. I want to show the boys my worth," he said.

The occasion will be made even more sweet by the inclusion of Martin, his younger brother by 11 months, on the replacements' bench, and the presence in the stands of their proud father, Andy, who led New Zealand in the 1970s. It will be the first time the boys have been involved in the same team since primary school in Wellington.

They qualify by dint of a paternal grandfather from Linlithgow. It is not the first time that Scotland has looked south



Martin Leslie, left, and his brother, John, take a break from training with the Scotland squad yesterday

for inspiration. That they have done so again in such haste is indicative of the present state of the game in Scotland. Sean Lineen set the precedent in the 1980s to considerable acclaim and, in the intervening years,

a steady trickle followed, many of an indifferent quality, who were accused of seeking an "easy" cap.

In Leslie's case that is palpably not so. His pedigree and credentials are impeccable.

John has played more than 120 times for Otago, whom he helped to victory in the National Provincial championship (NPC) final against Waikato last month. He was a member of the Otago side that beat South Africa in 1994, while 32 appearances for Otago Highlanders in the Super 12 are also on his CV — but not, alas, a full New Zealand cap. That omission surprises many, among them Christian Stewart, his opponent tomorrow and a player also making his international debut.

"John was the most underestimated centre in Super 12," Stewart said. "I am really surprised he is not an All Black because he is very difficult to play against. Traditionally, New Zealand have looked for a crash ball first five eight. He offers a lot more. For a start, he doesn't die with the ball." Bobby Skinstad, who also starts for his first full game for South Africa, said: "In the NPC, he was Otago."

Leslie remains philosophical about being overlooked, but admits it was a factor in his acceptance of an offer from the Scottish Rugby Union this summer. It was not, however, the only reason. "I felt I had been playing well, but I wasn't picked so I came to the decision that I would get on with my life. I enjoy rugby, but there a lot of other things in life. I wanted to see the world so why not let rugby take you there?"

In reality, he will only be in Scotland until March, when he is due to take up a three-year contract with Sarin, the Japanese club. Whether he does remain to be seen, but for now, his thoughts are focused only on South Africa. "It will be a huge task, but you have to believe in yourself. No one can remain unbeaten forever."

ATHLETICS: LONDON AND PARIS COMPETE TO HOST 2003 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Edmonton's gain is boost for Britain

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

GREAT Britain's bid to bring the 2003 world championships to Wembley was given impetus yesterday when the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) chose Edmonton, Canada, to host the 2001 event. If the 2001 championships had been awarded to Paris, the odds would have shifted towards the 2003 event going outside Europe.

Lobbying for Britain to host the world's third biggest sporting event — only the football World Cup and Olympic Games command greater global interest — will intensify this weekend. David Hemery, who was installed on Tuesday as the president of Athletics UK, will lead a British delegation to Monte Carlo, where the IAAF stages its end-of-year awards dinner on Sunday.

"This leaves London in the running,"

an IAAF spokesman said after it was revealed that Edmonton would become only the second non-European host of championships, first held in 1983. Since Tokyo hosted in 1991, they have been staged in Stuttgart (1993), Gothenburg (1995) and Athens (1997). Seville will host the event next year.

The pressure that had been mounting on the IAAF to take the championships outside Europe has now, to the relief of British officials, been eased. "This is good news for us," Jayne Pearce, the spokeswoman for British athletics, said last night.

The world championships at Wembley in 2003 would be the most important

athletics event staged in Britain since the 1948 Olympic Games, and of more global interest than any sports event in this country since the 1956 football World Cup. Financial backing through National Lottery funding has been agreed in principle by the UK and English sports councils and Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport, has put Government support into motion.

Paris made only a half-hearted attempt to win the nomination for the 2001 championships, using it as a marker for 2003. The French capital is likely to be the strongest rival for London, although Berlin could be a late runner. A decision on the venue for 2003 is expected in April. The IAAF also announced yesterday that Lisbon would stage the 2001 world indoor championships.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Ireland stands by drugs case decision

Rugby Football Union has closed the book on the drug allegations of which two players were accused last month. They have accepted the verdict of an independent tribunal, chaired by Chief Justice Tom Finlay, that said that in the case of one, unnamed player, there was no case to answer and that the other, an under-21 player, should be reprimanded only.

The senior player was reported by the British Sports Council after a Five Nations Championship match, but the tribunal found that he was taking a prescribed substance for genuine reasons. However, Tom Tierney, the Garryowen and Munster scrum half, was found after being tested at an under-21 international against France last March, to have taken unintentionally ephedrine, a prohibited substance.

BASKETBALL: Thames Valley Tigers, the Sainsbury's Classic Cola National Cup holders, have been drawn against Sheffield Sharks in the semi-finals. The BBC hope to screen the second leg live on Grandstand on December 20. Leopards, the winners in 1997, face Newcastle Eagles in the other semi-final.

CRICKET: Wisden, the sport's bible, launched its first Australian edition by naming Belinda Clark as Australian Cricketer of the Year. Clark, captain of the national women's team, won the award ahead of the entire Australia men's team. Her recent achievements include captaining the winning Ashes and World Cup teams. In the latter, she was player of the series and set a world record score of 229 not out in a one-day international.

SQUASH: The chances of the World Open title coming to Britain for the first time improved yesterday when Jansher Khan, the eight-times winner, withdrew for the second year in succession. Peter Nicol, of Scotland, is top seed for the event in Qatar later this month.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Eric Ashton, the former Wigan and Great Britain captain, was honoured for his 45 years in the game when he received the Rugby League Writers' Association merit award.

Bite-sized approach means less to chew on

Part from an opening one hour special, the new Dispatches (Channel 4) format is now of half-hour investigative documentaries on difficult social issues.

boys over the past few years. They found that 14 cases had come to court since 1996, involving charges against 79 youths.

done to her psychologically. It is the kind of atrocity normally associated with particularly vicious warfare.

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

despite the misgivings of his co-Brixtonians. The burly presenter can be infuriatingly mealy-mouthed, pompous and illogical.

mentator prepared to talk on camera. Many people would ostracise you for talking about this," he noted.

As for Dispatches, a topic so horrible, so riddled with difficult issues, intractable problems and far-reaching implications, was always going to test the new format to the limit.

ably poisoning wells in medieval Europe or giving blankets infected with smallpox to Native Americans by United States and British officials didn't count.)

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (77575)
7.00 Breakfast News (47759)
9.00 Killy (764827)
9.40 Style Challenge: Hairdresser of the Year nominees offer makeovers to audience members in return for a donation to Children in Need (9297778)

- 6.35am Hairy and Black Holes (9763117)
7.00 Hairy Jeremy (7) (5519488)
7.05 Teletubbies (7) (231370)
7.30 Tom and Jerry Kids (2122489)
7.55 Smart (7) (5424758)
8.20 Robinson Sucree (7) (9017204)
8.45 Johnny and Friends (7) (6722310)
8.55 Hairy Jeremy (7) (5211881)

- 6.00am GMTV (9801339)
9.25 Triaha (7) (8579876)
10.15 This Morning: Guests include the actress Isabella Rossellini (7) (757778)
12.15pm HTV News (3528643)
12.30 News (7) and weather (94594)
1.00 Shortland Street (35914)
1.30 Home and Away (7) (39865)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (7) (8491515)

- 6.55am Sesame Street (50285)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (30469)
9.00 Schools: Off Limits - Talking about Race (1) (2381827)
9.25 Schools at Work (5551881)
9.30 Eureka! The Fruit (8366177)
9.45 Slope, Look, Listen (8354372)
10.00 The Complete Cornrow (4231285)
10.15 Schools at Work (2138600)
10.25 Caravan Two (3915407)
10.40 Top 2 En Espanol (979594)
11.00 The Technology Programme: Design and Make It (406827)
11.15 One Show - Natural Inventions (4089778)

- 6.00am 5 News and Sport (2604204)
7.00 Mikhalek (7563533)
7.35 Winkles (7) (1881117)
8.00 Hayekazoo (7) (274758)
8.30 Dappleford Farm (2768730)
9.00 Floyd Uncorked (7) (7683198)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (1) (4448594)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (1604907)
10.20 Sunset Beach (7) (2027223)
11.10 Leza (7) (9229488)
12.00 5 News at Noon (7) (2777846)

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VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes
The numbers after each programme are for VIDEO Plus+ programming. Just enter the VIDEO Plus+ numbers for the relevant programme into your video recorder for easy listing.

Sanjeev Bhaskar's version of the singer Javier Cooker (9.30pm)
9.30 Goodness Gracious Me Asian sketch show (7) (87204)

10.40 Friday Night's All Wright Footballer Ian Wright's guests on his chat show are Captain, Sheryl Cow, Al Salties and the faith healer Glenn Druce (222652)

11.30 The Jerry Springer Show (7) (422310)
12.10am Soundbites (7608763)
12.25 Pirate TV (7314063)
12.55 Club's Gift (1439995)
1.55 Club's Vision (707353)

1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (3405117)
2.35-3.10 A Splash of Colour (5874117)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (4518020)
6.25 Anglia Weather (500846)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (162643)
10.25 Anglia Air Watch (485001)

11.05 Harry Hill (7) (692223)
11.35 TF1 Friday (7) (420040)
12.40am I Like It Like That (1994) Drama about a South Bronx Puerto Rican family. Directed by Daniel Martin (7) (897402)

11.05 American Boyfriends (1989) Drama with Margaret Garret Langrock and Jenna Wildman. Canadian teenage friends find love and adventure on a long trip. Directed by Sandy Wilson (7) (842198)

For further listings see Saturday's Vision SKY 1
7.00am The Simpsons (81117)
7.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (95730)
8.30 Hollywood Squares (8001)
8.00 Gully (49575)
10.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (89138)

10.00am Big (1988) (26575)
10.00 Three Wishes (75272)
10.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (95730)
10.00 Gully (49575)
10.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (89138)

11.30am Funzone in Sport
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SATELLITE AND CABLE



Drew Barrymore is on the receiving end of a terrifying phone call in Wes Craven's daisy comic horror, Scary (Sky MoviesMax 10pm)

SKY PREMIER
6.00am Big (1988) (26575)
10.00 Three Wishes (75272)
10.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (95730)

SKY SPORTS 3
11.30am Funzone in Sport
11.30am Funzone in Sport
11.30am Funzone in Sport

EUROSPORT
7.30am Show Jumping
7.30am Show Jumping
7.30am Show Jumping

UK GOLD
7.00am Crossroads
7.30 Neighbours
7.55 EastEnders
8.30 The 50th Anniversary Special

DISNEY CHANNEL
6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House
6.00 Bear in the Big Blue House
6.00 Bear in the Big Blue House

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL
SATELLITE: 9pm-10:30pm ONLY
8.00 Star Trek: Voyager
8.30 Quantum Leap

NICKELODEON
6.00am Fraggle Rock
6.30 Muppet Babies
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MOTOR RALLYING 50

Brothers united in aiming for world championship success

SPORT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20 1998

GOLF 54

Financial advisers take first-day lead in Corporate Challenge



Victory grants breathing space Hoddle earns extra time to silence critics

By OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

BECAUSE he was smiling and the mood was right, it was put to Glenn Hoddle after England's 2-0 win over the Czech Republic that he had gained a generous clutch of grey hairs over the past few troubled months.

man-management. However much he protests, he is coming perilously close to losing his entire squad with his treatment of them, on the training pitch and in post-match debriefings.

carries on regardless, then the same problems will resurface. Everyone prefers positive thinking when it comes to the national team, but Hoddle and his advisers at the Football Association sometimes seem to crave antagonism.

This was football as pleasure again, not as pain. Hoddle had scarcely smiled as much in the aftermath of the draw with Italy that took England to the World Cup.

If Hoddle is willing to listen and learn he will use the time between now and the next international, against France on February 10, to try to build a few bridges, to redefine his attitude towards his players.

In some small way, perhaps they were. It may have been no coincidence that his most loyal disciples came through for him. Paul Merson, Wright and Darren Anderson, all devotees of Eileen Drewery and the Hoddle regime, came through just when it was beginning to seem as though his hold on the national team was in tatters.

The crisis is not over yet, because the result has done nothing to improve England's standing in their European championship qualifying group.

"Dion was impeccable," Hoddle said. "Anyone who ever suggested he was not international class should be embarrassed. His intelligence is spot on and he organises from the front, which is a very rare asset.

If England are to have any chance of resuscitating their qualifying campaign by beating Poland at Wembley on March 27, Hoddle, to use his own terminology, must take his arrogant head off and start listening to some decent advice, particularly in the area of

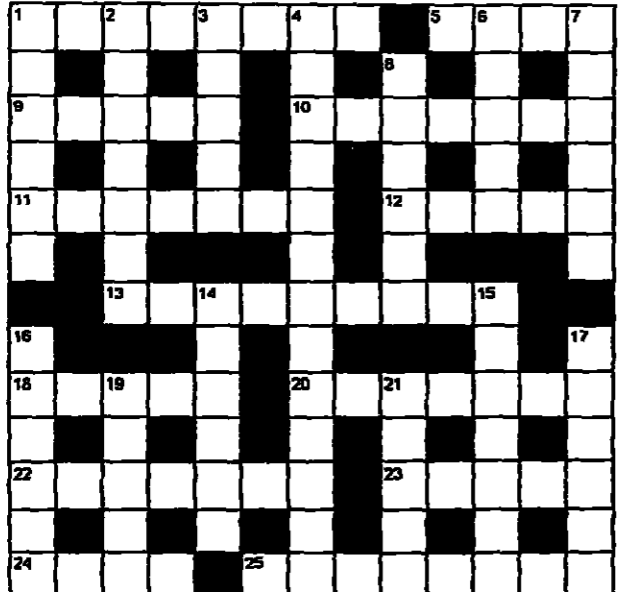
"Dion has got all-round ability and he finds space where other players would have more pace might not. The first yard is in his head, just like it is with Teddy Sheringham. He is switched on defensively and despite everyone going on about his age he is only 29. Wrighty knows it is going to stop for him at some stage, so why not just go out and enjoy himself? He loves the game."



TOMORROW

"There was no way I could fall any lower than the point I got to in the summer," Stan Collymore breaks his silence

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1568

- ACROSS
1 Promotion of kin (8)
5 Part of leg; baby animal (4)
9 Suspension of hostilities (5)
10 Obvious (7)
11 That which is left over (7)
12 Barbarian tribesmen (5)
13 Getting bald (4,2,3)
18 Challenging behaviour (5)
20 Offer; resist (4,3)
22 Warning; wariness (7)
23 Surface lustre (5)
24 Cleopatra's serpent (A & C) (4)
25 Get together (8)
DOWN
1 Oath-giving official (6)
2 Drop like stone (7)
3 Greek th (5)
4 Amorous burble (5,8)
6 Watchful (5)
7 One irrationally worshipped (9)
8 Dwarf (6)
14 Homorously incongruous (6)
15 Saw (7)
16 French chorus-line dance (6)
17 Position, attitude (6)
19 Thin porridge (5)
21 Strong cotton fabric (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1567
ACROSS: 1 Brooking 5 Hill 8 Mottie 9 Pushkin 11 Lot 12 Aborigine 13 Dubbed 15 Emigre 18 Scapegoot 19 Pub 20 Askance 21 Scuba 22 Mote 23 Handsome
DOWN: 1 Bumbled 2 Octet 3 Keep an eye on 4 Nippon 6 Inkling 7 Lounge 10 Stigmatised 14 Blanket 16 Embrace 17 Novena 18 Swarm 19 Pluto

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Head start: Alex Stewart, the England captain, took time out during the final net practice before the start of the first Test of the Ashes series against Australia in Brisbane by showing off his football skills to the watching spectators. Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

Real target is spoilt for choice

By STEPHEN WOOD

A LAND of opportunity is beckoning Steve McManaman, if only he could decide how to get there. McManaman's contract at Liverpool expires at the end of the season, and the number of clubs courting his services as a free agent has reached double figures.

Real Madrid are favourites to entice the 26-year-old forward. The Spanish club are rumored to have prepared a £3 million bid, designed to fit in with the transfer window in Spain between December 21 and January 3. Liverpool insist they have received no approach from Real.

Nevertheless, Real remain the likely destination, even though, as Colin Gordon, McManaman's advisor, revealed yesterday, there are up to 13 other clubs interested. Gordon said: "There is interest from England, Spain and Italy. Nothing has been concluded yet, because it is a big decision facing Steve. He is also a loyal person, and could still decide to stay at Liverpool."

McManaman has a clause in his contract that states he may sign a pre-contract deal with any other club on January 1, 1999, and it is likely that Real will try and tempt him with a package worth £1.6 million a year, tax-free.

Manchester United yesterday denied reports that they are to buy a controlling stake in Adelaide Sharks, the Australia-based football club. Martin Edwards, the United chairman, said: "Those reports are absolutely untrue. We were approached by the Sharks in the summer, but the board of directors turned down their proposals."

England face sterner test against Italy

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT AND MARK SOUSTER

ENGLAND, having scored more than 100 points against The Netherlands in their opening World Cup qualifying game, will be harder pressed against Italy in their second match. An unchanged XV will be on duty at the McAlpine Stadium, Huddersfield on Sunday, seeking first place in the group and avoiding yet another draw which the World Cup organisers have seen fit to inflict on the competing teams.

The third-placed teams (The Netherlands, Georgia and, in all probability, Portugal) go through to repechages, but the second-placed teams in each of the three European qualifying groups must draw for the pools in which they compete in the finals next year. The arcane ways of the organisers are baffling but, by hook or by crook, the host nations must end up as precisely that - hosts.

In the unlikely event of Ireland losing to Romania on Saturday, for example, they would still go through as Europe 1, whatever happens at Huddersfield or, next month, at Murrayfield, England will be Europe 2 and Scotland, Europe 3. All the more reason for a restructured tournament that recognises the huge imbalance of playing standards and seeded teams accordingly.

Clive Woodward expects a physical game on Sunday even though the Italians, who confirm their starting XV today, are missing at least ten familiar faces. No Vaccaro, no Francescato, no Vaccaro or Orlandi; injuries, suspension and personal differences have removed many of the players who have carried Italy to a place at the Five Nations table next season.

"This is Italy's first crack at England since the expansion of the Five Nations was announced," Woodward, England's coach, said. "They will be keen to do well."

The Netherlands, beaten 67-7 by Italy on Wednesday night, look forward now to a repechage meeting with South Korea. England took things gently yesterday, walking through their moves in training at Leeds University before releasing the four players surplus to requirements this weekend - Phil de Glanville, Tom Beir, Tony Diprose and Will Green.

Ten players have been substituted together on Wednesday, while Townsend and Stuart Grimes, who makes way for Dottie Weir, have themselves to be content with places on the bench.

There are three new caps, the centre pairing of Jamie Mayer and John Leslie, and Anthony Pountney, the Northampton open-side flanker who was born in the Channel Islands but opted for Scotland under the tutelage of Ian McGeechan, his club coach.

Alan Tait switches to the right wing, Scotland brought forward the announcement of their team by a day to comply with a new International Board directive which they had earlier overlooked.

Hendry overrun as his game goes to pot

By PHIL YATES

LOP-SIDED snooker exchanges involving Stephen Hendry are nothing new. On countless occasions, the Scot has ruthlessly dissected challengers, working on the principle that the wider his margin of victory, the more satisfaction he will extract from the result.

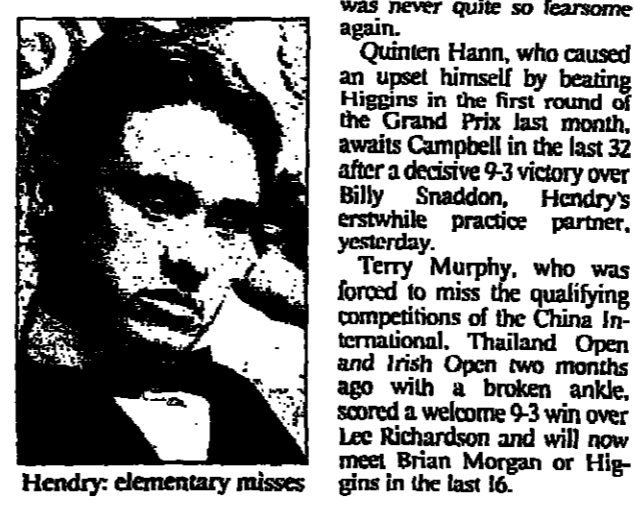
At the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship in Bournemouth last night, Hendry experienced a startling role reversal. After a session, on Wednesday evening, which must qualify as the worst of his career, Hendry was beaten by Marcus Campbell 9-0.

Losing nine consecutive frames against a fellow-member of the snooker's elite group would be unexpected enough for someone of Hendry's lofty status, but to be comprehensively routed by Campbell, a bespectacled journeyman from Dumbarton, is astounding.

In 13 years as a professional, Hendry has only been whitewashed four times - by Mark Johnston-Allen, Joe Swail, Alan McManus, and as a rookie, by Paddy Brown. However, all of those matches were contested over the best-of-nine frame sprint distance.

Previously, Hendry's heaviest defeat in a best-of-17 frame contest had been a 9-1 trouncing at the hands of Cliff Thorburn in 1987. However, even that pales against his embarrassingly ineffective attempt to contain Campbell, the world No 74.

The six-times world champion, who led the rankings for an unbroken spell from 1990 until he was displaced by John Higgins earlier this year, was devoid of confidence. He reportedly squandered scoring opportunities and missed several elementary pips, to the growing bemusement of the crowd.



Hendry: elementary misses

David Beckham - £6.7 million
Michael Owen - £9.4 million
Gladys Holm - £11.25 million!

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